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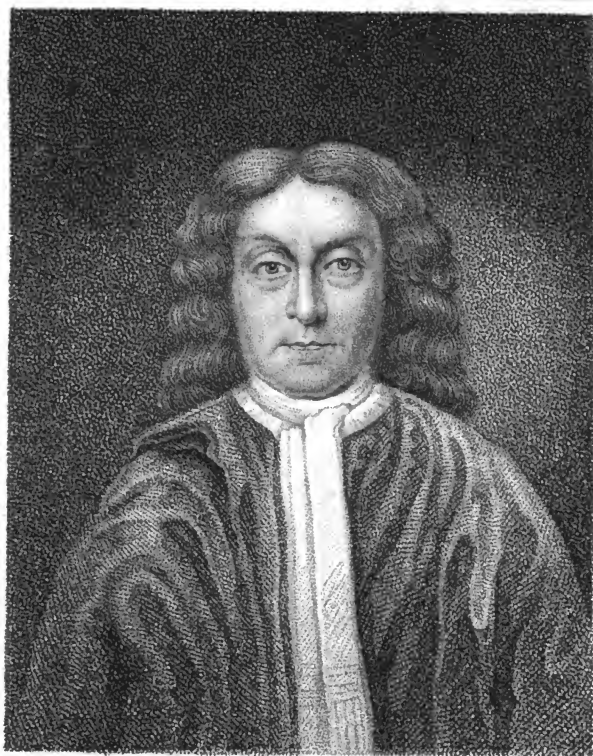
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JOHN KYRLE,

The Man of Ross

Published as the Act directs, May, 1810.

THE
WYE TOUR,
WITH ADDITIONS;
AND
The Companion to the Tour:
COMPRISING
INTERESTING ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
THE MAN OF ROSS.

~~~~~  
BY THE  
REV. T. D. FOSBROKE, M. A. F. A. S.  
Author of British Monachism—The History of  
Gloucestershire, &c. &c.

~~~~~  
Third Edition much enlarged.
~~~~~

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S. view SYMONDS YAT, on the WYE.

*Revs. Published by W<sup>m</sup> Farrer. August. 1822.*

THE  
**WYE TOUR,**

OR

**GILPIN ON THE WYE,**

WITH

**Picturesque, Historical,**

AND

**Archæological Additions.**

---

BY THE

**REV. T. D. FOSBROKE, M. A. F. A. S.**

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**A NEW EDITION, MUCH ENLARGED.**

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**PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY W. FARROR.**

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**1822.**

**HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
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TO JOHN BRITTON, Esq. F. A. S.

DEAR SIR,

*I take a particular pleasure in inscribing a Work, devoted to Illustration of the "British Tempè" to you, who have exhibited our richest remains of Antiquity in a superb style, which the Calcographic Art was before not thought to possess. To you the National Taste is highly indebted for improvement; and whatever augments the attraction of the Fine Arts, conduces to amelioration of character, in a much more important view than is commonly imagined.*

*I am,*

*Dear Sir,*

*Yours truly,*

**T. D. FOSBROKE.**

Walford on the Wye, June 23rd, 1822.

THE  
JOURNAL  
OF  
THE  
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND  
VOLUME LXXV. PART 1. 1905.  
LONDON: PUBLISHED BY THE INSTITUTE.  
1905.

## PREFACE.

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**T**HE chief differences of this from the preceding Edition are translation of the matter concerning Ross, to a distinct publication relating to that Town and its Vicinity, entitled *ARICONENSIA*, to be had of the same Publisher, as a proper companion to this work : and a division of the materials into three parts ; the Picturesque, that the matter might conform to the Tour ; the Historical to be read at the Inn ; and the source of the river by way of completion, for perusal at leisure.

Historical and Topographical Illustrations were evident desiderata of Gilpin's Work. To make up the volume, he has added a journal by friends concerning certain parts of South Wales. The important parts of this Journal, are incorporated by the Author, in a small work, entitled "*OUTLINES OF MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES*" to be had of the same Publisher, and compiled on purpose to accommodate such Tourists as may wish to extend their travels into that interesting region—The matter therefore included

in the first edition of the Wye Tour, from page 122 to 133, is transferred thither of course, and the room supplied by new matter, appropriate to the Wye Tour. These three publications may be had separately or unitedly.

As to the present work, the Author has treated the subject *con amore*, and endeavoured to enrich it from high authority and recondite literature. As *Cicerones* on the spot, supply catalogues and details, he has to rejoice, that the richness of the subject left no room for matter unconnected with sentiment or information. It may be proper to add that the grand scenes were repeatedly visited on purpose for this work, by the Author, and his friend, Thomas Foster, Esq. B. A. of Emanuel College, Cambridge. If he has any claims as an antiquary or topographer, there is no work which he has endeavoured to render more pleasing than this little book. But it was an animating subject—a glorious landscape laid out by the Omnipotent himself, which by the sublimity of its style, exalts admiration into piety: and by its wondrous disposition of objects, strikes dumb presuming art and prattling science.

*Addition to the Land Tour.*

N. B. Since this work was in the Press, a new road winding round the river, has been made from Tintern under Windcliff, commanding a superb view of the Banks.

# WYE TOUR.

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## PART FIRST.

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PICTURESQUE AND ITINERARY DEPARTMENT.

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### *Introduction—General character of the Wye Scenery.*

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**I**T never occurred to Gray or Gilpin, who brought this Tour into notice, that the Dell of the Wye is in character, though of course not in details, (Nature making no Fac-similés) a portrait of the celebrated Grecian Tempé enlarged. It did not occur to these fine authors, because Ælian's description is inaccurate. That famous vale is a defile; distinguished by an air of wild grandeur.—The following extracts from a recent traveller prove the assimilation.\*

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\* Walpole's Travels.

*“ The Vale of Tempé is known to the Turks, by the appellation of Bogaz, a pass or strait, answering to our idea of rocky dell. Travellers are prepared for their approach by the gradual closing in of the mountains on each side of the river ; and by a greater severity of character, which the scenery assumes around it.”* It is the same at Coppett Hill, where the grand scenes commence.

*“ Nature has left only sufficient room for the channel of the river.”* This ensues for miles upon the Wye ; but Tempé is only five miles long, the Wye, forty.

*“ The scenery consists of a dell or deep glen, the opposite sides of which rise very steeply from the bed of the river. The towering height of these rocky and well wooded acclivities above the spectator ; the contrast of lines, exhibited by their folding successively one over another ; and the winding of the Peneus between them, produce a very striking effect, which is heightened by the wildness of the whole view, and the deep shadows of the mountains.”* This is the leading character of the Wye Scenery, and is an exact general description of it.

*“ On the north side of the Peneus, the mass of rock is more entire, and the objects which strike the eye, are altogether more bold, but perhaps more*

*picturesque.*" Instances of this occur, as the Wye approaches Chepstow.

A modern traveller finds also an assimilation of the country, and the banks of the river in the new world.

" In point of climate and aspect, Brownsville is perhaps the finest part of Pennsylvania; rich and extensive prospects are seen on all sides, similar to what you have in Herefordshire and Monmouthshire; the sunbeams pointing out, (as there) the windings of far nobler streams; broken as it is by rocks, much of it is rich soil; and where not so, it is rich beneath in coal and iron. The veins of coal appear in the sides of the hills, not requiring the trouble and expense of most of your mines in England."

" Several arks, or flat-bottomed boats, dropping down to Wheeling with glass, afforded me a favourable opportunity of viewing some of the beauties of the Monongahela. Without any other engagement, than that of now and then lending a hand at the roughly shaped oars, I joined them, and if you recollect our excursion up the Wye to Tintern Abbey you will have some idea of the scenery around me; at every turn of the river, farms, towns, bold and impending rocks, and fertile slopes, successively presented themselves to my delighted eyes.\*

\* Harris's American Tour, p. p. 84, 85.

The sources of beauty in the ground adjoining the Wye, are easily explained. Extensive flats, and continuous lines of hill, are the distinguishing features of tameness and identity. Marshall pronounces Herefordshire, a county, *altogether beautiful*, because the surface is broken in a remarkable manner, and it has no wide open vale, nor any extensive range of hill.\*

Such being the romantic fairy scenes, embellished with rare antiquities, on the "Banks of the Wye," it is clear, that the former, ought to be delineated by the hand of a master; and the latter to be treated in a satisfactory elaborate form. In the picturesque, Gilpin is unquestionably an Oracle; and his work is a Grammar of the Rules, by which alone the beauties of the Tour can be properly understood and appreciated. The whole of his matter, so far as concerns the Wye subject, is therefore given in his own words, with the additional remarks of humbler Tourists and the Author.

The Wye says Gilpin, takes its rise near the summit of Plinlimmon, and dividing the counties of Radnor and Brecknock passes through the middle of Herefordshire; it then becomes a second boundary between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and falls into the Severn a little below Chepstow. To this place from Ross, which is a course of near

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\* Rural Economy, ii. 187.



forty miles, it flows in a gentle, uninterrupted stream; and adorns, through its various reaches, a succession of the most picturesque scenes.

The beauty of these scenes arises chiefly from two circumstances; the *lofty banks* of the river, and its *mazy course*; both which are accurately observed by the poet, when he describes the Wye as *echoing* through its *winding* bounds.\* It could not well *echo*, unless its banks were both *lofty* and *winding*.

From these two circumstances, the views it exhibits are of the most beautiful kind of perspective, free from the formality of lines.

The most perfect river views thus circumstanced, are composed of four grand parts: the *area*, which is the river itself; the *two side-screens*, which are the opposite banks, and lead the perspective; and the *front-screen*, which points out the winding of the river.

If the Wye ran, like a Dutch canal, between parallel banks, there could be no front-screen; the two side-screens, in that situation would lengthen to a point.

If a road were under the circumstance of a river

\* Pleas'd Vaga echoes thro' its winding bounds,  
And rapid Severn's hoarse applause resounds.

POPE'S *Eth. Ep.*

winding like the Wye, the effect would be the same. But this is rarely the case. The road pursues the irregularity of the country. It climbs the hill and sinks into the valley; and this irregularity gives each view it exhibits, a different character,

The views on the Wye, though composed only of these *simple parts*, are yet *exceedingly varied*.

They are varied, first, by the *contrast of the screens*; sometimes one of the side-screens is elevated, sometimes the other, and sometimes the front; or both the side-screens may be lofty, and the front either high or low.

Again they are varied by the *folding of the side-screens over each other*; and hiding more or less of the front. When none of the front is discovered, the folding-side either winds round like an\* amphitheatre, or it becomes a long reach of perspective.

These *simple* variations admit still farther variety from becoming *complex*. One of the sides may be compounded of various parts, while the other remains simple; or both may be compounded and the front simple; or the front alone may be compounded,

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\* The word amphitheatre, strictly speaking, is a complete inclosure; but, I believe it is commonly accepted, as here for any circular piece of architecture, though it do not wind entirely round.

Besides these sources of variety, there are other circumstances, which, under the name of *ornaments*, still farther increase them. *Plain* banks will admit all the variations we have yet mentioned; but when this *plainness* is *adorned*, a thousand other varieties arise.

The *ornaments* of the Wye may be ranged under four heads: *ground, wood, rocks, and buildings.*

The *ground*, of which the banks of the Wye consist, (and which hath thus far been considered only in its *general effect*,) affords every variety which ground is capable of receiving; from the steepest precipice to the flattest meadow. This variety appears in the line formed by the summits of the banks; in the swellings and excavations of their declivities; and in their indentations at the bottom, as they unite with the water.

In many places also the ground is *broken*; which adds new sources of variety. By *broken ground*, we mean only such ground as hath lost its turf, and discovers the naked soil. We often see a gravelly earth shivering from the hills, in the form of water-falls: often dry stony channels guttering down precipices, the rough beds of temporary torrents; and sometimes so trifling a cause as the rubbing of sheep against the sides of little banks or hillocks, will occasion very beautiful breaks.

The colour too of the broken soil is a great source of variety: the yellow or the red ochre, the ashy grey, the black earth, or the marly blue: and the intermixtures of these with each other, and with patches of verdure, blooming heath, and other vegetable tints, still increase that variety,

Nor let the fastidious reader think these remarks descend too much into detail. Were an extensive distance described, a forest scene, a sea-coast view, a vast semicircular range of mountains, or some other grand display of nature, it would be trifling to mark these minute circumstances. But here the hills around exhibit little except *fore-grounds*, and it is necessary, where we have no distances, to be more exact in finishing objects at hand.

The next great ornament on the banks of the Wye are its *woods*. In this country are many works carried on by fire; and the woods being maintained for their use, are periodically cut down. As the larger trees are generally left, a kind of alternacy takes place; what is this year a thicket, may the next, be an open grove. The woods themselves possess little beauty, and less grandeur: yet as we consider them merely as the *ornamental* parts of a scene, the eye will not examine them with exactness, but compound for a *general effect*.

One circumstance attending this alternacy is pleasing. Many of the furnaces on the banks of the

river, consume charcoal, which is manufactured on the spot ; and the smoke issuing from the sides of the hills, and spreading its thin veil over a part of them, beautifully breaks their lines, and unites them with the sky.

The chief deficiency, in point of wood, is of large trees on the *edge of the water* ; which clumped here and there, would diversify the hills as the eye passes them, and remove that heaviness which always, in some degree, (though here as little as anywhere,) arises from the continuity of ground. They would also give a degree of distance to the more removed parts ; which in a scene like this, would be attended with peculiar advantage : for as we have here so little distance, we wish to make the most of what we have—But trees *immediately on the foreground* cannot be suffered in these scenes, as they would obstruct the navigation of the river.

The *rocks* which are continually starting through the woods, produce another *ornament* on the banks of the Wye. The rock, as all other objects, though more than all, receives its chief beauty from contrast. Some objects are beautiful in themselves. The eye is pleased with the tuftings of a tree : it is amused with pursuing the eddying stream ; or it rests with delight on the broken arches of a Gothic ruin. Such objects, independent of com-

position, are beautiful in themselves. But the rock, bleak, naked, and unadorned, seems scarcely to deserve a place among them. Tint it with mosses and lichens of various hues, and you give it a degree of beauty. Adorn it with shrubs and hanging herbage, and you make it still more picturesque. Connect it with wood, and water, and broken ground, and you make it in the highest degree interesting. Its *colour* and its *form* are so accommodating, that it generally blends into one of the most beautiful appendages of landscape.

“ Different kinds of rocks have different kinds of beauty. Those on the Wye, which are of a greyish colour, are, in general, simple and grand : rarely formal or fantastic. Sometimes they project in those beautiful square masses, yet broken and shattered in every line, which is characteristic of the most majestic species of rock. Sometimes they slant obliquely from the eye in shelving diagonal strata ; and sometimes they appear in large masses of smooth stone, detached from each other, and half buried in the soil. Rocks of this last kind are the most lumpish, and least picturesque.”

“ The various *buildings* which arise everywhere on the banks of the Wye, form the last of its *ornaments* : abbeys, castles, villages, spires, forges, mills, and bridges. One or other of these venerable vestiges of past, or cheerful inhabitants of

present times, characterize almost every scene."

"These *works of art* are, however, of much greater use in *artificial* than in *natural* landscape. In pursuing the beauties of nature, we range at large among forests, lakes, rocks, and mountains. The various scenes we meet with, furnish an inexhausted source of pleasure: and though the works of art may often give animation and contrast to these scenes, yet still they are not necessary: we can be amused without them. But when we introduce a scene on canvas; when the eye is to be confined within the frame of a picture, and can no longer range among the varieties of nature, the aids of art become more important: and we want the castle or the abbey, to give consequence to the scene. Indeed, the landscape-painter seldom thinks his view perfect without characterizing it by some object of this kind."

"The channel of no river can be more decisively marked than that of the Wye. *Who hath divided a water course for the flowing of rivers?* saith the Almighty in that grand apostrophe to Job on the works of creation. The idea is happily illustrated here. A nobler *water-course* was never *divided* for any river than this of the Wye. Rivers, in general, pursue a devious course along the countries through which they flow; and form channels for themselves by constant fluxion. But

sometimes, as in these scenes, we see a channel marked with such precision, that it appears as if originally intended only for the bed of a river."

" Having thus analyzed the Wye, and considered separately its constituent parts; the *steepness* of its banks, its *mazy* course, the *grounds*, *woods*, and *rocks*, which are its native ornaments; and the *buildings*, which still farther adorn its natural beauties; we shall now take a view of some of those pleasing scenes which result from the *combination* of all these picturesque materials."

" I must, however, premise how ill-qualified I am to do justice to the banks of the Wye, were it only from having seen them under the circumstance of a continued rain, which began early in the day, before one third of our voyage was performed."

" It is true, scenery *at hand* suffers less under such a circumstance, than scenery at a *distance* which it totally obscures."

" The picturesque eye also, in quest of beauty finds it almost in every incident, and under every appearance of nature. Even the rain gave a gloomy grandeur to many of the scenes; and by throwing a veil of obscurity over the removed banks of the river, introduced, now and then, something like a pleasing distance. Yet still it hid greater beauties;



and we could not help regretting the loss of those broad lights and deep shadows, which would have given so much lustre to the whole, and which ground like this, is in a peculiar manner adapted to receive."

Thus Gilpin. Another eminent person, Archdeacon Coxe, gives the following concise general character of the scenery.

"The banks of the Wye, for the most part, rise abruptly from the edge of the water, and are clothed with forests broken into cliffs. In some places they approach so near that the river occupies the whole intermediate space, and nothing is seen but wood, rocks, and water; in others they alternately recede, and the eye catches an occasional glimpse of hamlets, ruins, and detached buildings, partly seated on the margin of the stream, and partly scattered on the rising grounds. The general character of the scenery however, is wildness and solitude, and if we except the populous district of Monmouth, no river perhaps flows for so long a course through a well cultivated country, the banks of which, exhibit so few inhabitants."

Gentlemen are not in the habits of bawling, and

therefore Gilpin may be excused the censure "that he might with propriety have added the *echoes* and the variety of views from the banks."\* The first he knew was a thing too common to deserve notice, unless there were remarkable circumstances attached to the natural history; and the last, as map-landscape, he merely looked at, because such views are in fact only Nature's shop-windows, richly set out. If he liked an object, he walked in and particularized it.

#### ARRIVAL AND STAY AT ROSS.

Upon the Gloucester road, near the turnpike, close to the Town, the fine Church with its belt of majestic elms, has all the dignity of a Greek acropolis. The town consists of narrow streets, and does not look like country-towns in general, two continuous lines of ale-houses, in a wide road, but like the trading streets of a city, especially of Bristol, the houses being various, and the shops frequently showy. This relief enlivens the narrow streets, and removes the remark of the caricaturist Woodward, that the dulness of country-towns is such, that one would think the inhabitants were all asleep at noon-day. The fine natural situation is however spoiled. The town should have been built on a terrace upon the brow of the

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\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 430.

## XV

river. But the defect here is of no moment, as visitors do not come to Ross, on account of the town, but of the country. This in truth is exquisite, for it embraces every glorious inland variety of ground, wood, water and rock. Some people think no view complete, which does not include the ocean; and Southampton, and the Isle of Wight present to them superior things. But there is a distinctness of character in the subjects; and why not allow merit to each, to the species of a genus? Table-ground, and mole-hill hillocks, present a manifest distinction to the grand irregularities of a mountainous country, and there comparison is fair, for it presents a clear, intelligible distinction, existing in nature,

The following is the general character of the scenery around Ross.

*Town, site of.* A ridge ascending from the East, over-hanging the Wye, which serpentine below, in strong curves.

*North East.* A fine up and down Country, mounting into a ridge above Crow Hill; beyond which is an exquisite view of the Town, with the rich back-ground of Penyard and the Chace.

*North.* A tamer country, but irregular, rich

and cultivated ; with breaks of wood, &c. in ridges : in the distance, picturesque Hills—The whole surface sprinkled with Spires, good Houses, cultivated Lands, and rich meadows.

*West.* Cultivated ground gently ascending. Acornbury and the Welch Hills in the distance.

*South.* A gentle undulating descent to the river, flanked on the left by the Chace and Howl Hill, and closed in by the ridges and hills, forming the exquisite Banks of the Wye, in semi-circle from the West to the South.

*East.* Flat rich Country, skirted by the Chace and Penyard, and lofty edge of the Forest of Dean.

Our late good old King, George III. once said to a General too much addicted to wine, "General, General, a pint of wine and a *long walk* after dinner, is a good thing. Your Majesty, replied the veteran, a bottle and a *short walk* is a better thing." Sir R. C. Hoare very justly observes, that a man on a Poney has far better chance of minutely noticing an object, than a wearied Pedestrian, whose thoughts nature in exhaustion must unavoidably direct to his dinner and his bed. The long walks around Ross, though including very

fine prospects, will not here be mentioned; only those within a distance, to which females would not object. The first and chief is the Prospect, adjoining the Church-yard.

*FIRST. THE PROSPECT.*

The view from hence, a fine relief from the dark brick buildings and awkward streets of the town, consists says Mr. Gilpin, “ of an easy sweep of the Wye, and of an extensive country beyond it. But it is not picturesque. It is marked by no characteristic objects. It is broken in too many parts, and it is seen from too high a point.” These are just technical objections, founded upon the disadvantage of bird’s eye views, which reduce all to a map, for Gray truly said, “ I find all points that are much elevated spoil the beauty of the valley, and make its parts, which are not large, look poor and diminutive.”\* But if the eye limits itself to the horse-shoe curve of the river, the green meadow, the ivied towers of Wilton Castle, and the light bridge, there is a very pleasing landscape.

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\* Mason’s Memoirs of Gray, vol. iv. p. 175.

## SECOND. CORPS CROSS TURNPIKE.

A little beyond is a fine view of Penyard and the Chace, in side screen.

## THIRD. WALK TO WILTON CASTLE.

The shell is tolerably entire, and there is a green walk all round between the walls and the moat. One corner is in the style of the fifteenth century: the others are Norman. Go over Wilton Bridge, and turn down a footpath just beyond.

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| Distance from Pop & Monmouth      |     | Miles |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| by water                          | --- | 25.   |
| by Land                           | --- | 16    |
| --- from Monmouth & }<br>Chepstow |     |       |
| by water                          | --- | 22    |
| by Land                           | --- | 14    |
| Chepstow & Monmouth               | --- | 15.   |
| Monmouth & Gloucester             | --- | 12.   |
| Gloucester & Pop                  | --- | 16.   |

# RIVER TOUR.

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## Ross to Goodrich.

STAGE FIRST.\*

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### *Right Bank.*

FIRST, WILTON BRIDGE AND CASTLE—SECOND, WEIR-END—THIRD, PENCRAIG HOUSE AND WOOD—FOURTH, GOODRICH CASTLE—FIVE MILES.

### *Left Bank.*

FIRST, MAN OF ROSS'S WALK—SECOND, NEW HILL COURT, COMMONLY CALLED THE HILL, THREE MILES—OPPOSITE THE CASTLE, TURN-PIKE ROAD TO ROSS.

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**T**RAVELLERS have observed, that the ride over Wilton Bridge is beautiful, and that was not the approach to Goodrich Castle by water too interesting to be given up, parties taking the tour down the

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\*The Stages end at the places of debarkation.

Wye, would see the country to a much greater advantage, if they pursued this road, and embarked at Goodrich, there being no variety or object worthy of notice for nearly four miles, after passing **WILTON\* CASTLE.**† The general character of the scenery is, under Ross, meadows backed by cliffs, which soon terminate on that side in rich pastures, flat and low: on the Wilton side, the banks are at first low, but soon rise into a ridge mostly wooded, which ridge continues to Goodrich Castle, and sinks down to the Wye, beyond it.

The first object after embarkation is **WILTON BRIDGE, and CASTLE.**

The Bridge is called "an elegant structure"§ and "one of masterly architecture."|| The key-stones lock curiously one into the other.‡ This description is enthusiastic. It is an old bridge without the rugged antique aspect of such buildings in general. In this view it is light and airy and does credit to the Elizabethan age, in which it was erected. The arch next the village is distinguishable from the others. The original was broken down by order of General Rudhall, in the wars of Charles I. in order to impede the rebel troops in their way to Hereford.\*

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\* The places printed in capitals, are treated of in the historical part.

† Nicholson, col. 1151.

§ Cambrian Tourist, 431.

|| Nicholson, 641.

‡ Id. 1355.

\* Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.



“The Castle,” says Gilpin, is shrouded with a few trees; but the scene wants accompaniments, to give it grandeur;” for some time there were only a few trees in their infancy around it, and it could be sufficiently seen from the water.† At present it is obscured in a manner quite foreign to the picturesque, though ten years ago its ivy-mantled towers were sufficiently conspicuous to render it a very interesting object.

“The first part of the river from Ross is, says Gilpin, tame, from the lowness of the banks.” But some relief is afforded by the Man of Ross’s walk, a plantation of forest trees, on the brow of a rocky eminence, and the back view of Penyard and the Chace Woods, at the Weir-end.

After passing Wilton, Gilpin thus proceeds: “The bank however, soon began to swell on the right, and was richly adorned with wood. We admired it much; and also the vivid images reflected from the water, which were continually disturbed as we sailed past them, and thrown into tremulous confusion by the dashing of our oars. A disturbed surface of water endeavouring to collect its scattered images and restore them to order, is among the *pretty* appearances of nature.”

“We met with nothing for some time during

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† Cambrian Tourist, 431,

our voyage but these grand woody banks, one rising behind another; appearing and vanishing by turns, as we doubled the several capes. But though no particular objects characterized these different scenes, yet they afforded great variety of pleasing views, both as we wound round the several promontories, which discovered new beauties as each scene opened, and when we kept the same scene a longer time in view, stretching along some lengthened reach, where the river is formed into an irregular vista by hills shooting out beyond each other, and going off in perspective."

The Hill, or New Hill Court, three miles from Ross, on the left, is the seat of Kingsmill Evans, Esq. Lord of the Manors of Ross, Walford, &c. The Man of Ross is said to have planned the central part of the building; the wings being of more recent addition. It is large and roomy, and has several very fine park trees.

Not far beyond, on the right is a pleasing mansion, sheltered by wood, and crowning the brow of a steep ascent, now occupied by George Little, Esq. It is called *Pencraig* and the beauties of its exquisite situation will be given under the *Land Tour*, because they are founded upon prospect.

Soon afterwards we come to the famous elevation and aspect of GOODRICH CASTLE, on the S. S. E.

bank, as viewed from the water and engraved by Bonnor,\* under the light of a setting sun. He calls it "an actual view of that part described by Mr. Gilpin, as its most important appearance; where standing upon its own promontory, it overhangs the crystal Wye, which here makes a graceful and brilliant sweep, and then retires into the bold scenery"† commencing at *Coppet Wood*.

"Four miles from Ross, says Gilpin, we came to Goodrich Castle; where a grand view presented itself; and we rested on our oars to examine it. A reach of the river, forming a noble bay, is spread before the eye. The bank, on the right, is steep, and covered with wood; beyond which a bold promontory shoots out, crowned with a castle, rising among trees."

"This view which is one of the grandest on the river, I could not scruple to call *correctly picturesque*: which is seldom the character of a purely natural scene."

"Nature is always great in design. She is an admirable colourist also; and harmonizes tints with infinite variety and beauty: but she is seldom so correct in composition as to produce an harmonious whole. Either the foreground, or the back-ground is disproportioned; or some awkward

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\* Pl. ii.

† p. 48.

line runs across the piece; or a tree is ill placed; or a bank is formal; or something or other is not exactly what it should be. The case is, the immensity of nature is beyond human comprehension. She works on a *vast scale*; and, no doubt, harmoniously, if her schemes could be comprehended. The artist, in the mean time, is confined to a *span*; and lays down its little rules, which he calls the *principles of picturesque beauty*, merely to adapt such diminutive parts of nature's surfaces to his own eye, as come within its scope.—Hence, therefore, the painter who adheres strictly to the *composition* of nature, will rarely make a good picture. His picture must contain a *whole*; his archetype is but a *part*. In general, however, he may obtain views of such parts of nature, as with the addition of a few trees or a little alteration in the foreground, (which is a liberty that must be always allowed,) may be adapted to his rules: though he is rarely so fortunate as to find a landscape so completely satisfactory to him. In the scenery indeed, at Goodrich Castle the parts are few; and the whole is a simple exhibition. The complex scenes of nature are generally those which the artist finds most refractory to his rules of composition.”

“ In following the course of the Wye, which makes here one of its boldest sweeps, we were carried almost round the castle, surveying it in a

variety of forms. Some of these retrospects are good; but in general, the castle loses on this side, both its own dignity, and the dignity of its situation."

Inferior writers say concerning this view, "before us the noble remains of Goodrich Castle, cresting a steep eminence, enveloped with trees, presented themselves; behind, the thick foliage of Chace Wood, closed the picture. The happiest gradation of tints, and the liveliest blending of colours were here conspicuous."\* More correct delineation would say, on the left, are the Chace Woods, in front, Howl-hill in Walford, a chequered scene of high irregular ground, consisting of wood, field, rock, and roughet.

The Ferry-boat is guided by a rope, a custom certainly of the fourteenth century,† and probably of the earliest date in narrow rivers.

Before landing at the castle, the traveller should recollect the preparatory observation of Bonnor, that nothing can be more picturesque than the irregularly important appearance, and grateful diffusions of light and shade, which these formidable relicks afford to the observation of genius.‡

This ancient fortification owes its present form

\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 432.

† Froissart, vi. 176.

‡ Itin. p. 48.

to four alterations at various periods ; as follows.

I. The original Anglo Saxon Castle, consisted only of the Square Keep-tower, with a few offices, destroyed afterwards, or worked into the newer additions.

II. In the 12th century, probably on account of the wars of Stephen, the Keep-tower was surrounded by the high buildings and round towers at the corners.

III. When castellated mansions came into vogue in the reign of Edward III., a considerable attempt was made to change the castle, as far as was practicable, into that form.

IV. In the 15th century, the castle assumed still more the aspect of the castellated mansion, by further alterations, as appears from the shell of the chapel.

Though there is only indirect historical evidence of these facts, yet the styles of architecture sufficiently attest them.

The published accounts of the castle, are full of intricate and tiresome details, and some undoubtedly incorrect.

The best way of surveying the castle, is to enter by the Gate-house, the most curious and perfect part of the whole.

It is made very long for a succession of Gates, and Portcullises. The latter are Roman: for Winckelman traced them at the gates of Rome, Tivoli, and Pompeii: and one is represented in an ancient painting of the Villa Albani.\* After passing the Drawbridge, on the right hand is a Loop-hole, by which the porter received messages before opening the gates. In the wall, a passage is worked, by which he communicated with the applicant for admission in one way, and the constable of the castle on the other. Less suspected visitors waited between the outer and inner gates. The room over the Gateway was the Guard-room. Beneath the causeway, which supported the drawbridge, is an arch, usual according to the accounts of Knaresborough, for the convenience of cavalry sallying.† Passing the Gateway, on the north or right hand, are windows with seats, for the purpose of reconnoitering the passage over the Wye; on the western side, is the Hall, as usual in most castles, opposite the Gate-house. A peculiarity attaches to this hall. From the steepness of the acclivity outside, it would have been too exposed. It is therefore secured by an artificial terrace and wall, so projecting, that no missile weapon from below could reach the windows. On the south side is an Angular Tower; next to it in the centre, the

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\* *Encyclop. des Antiq.* v. Port.  
Knaresborough, p. 32.

† *History of*

old Anglo-Saxon Keep-tower, all in line. This strong defence faces the most accessible side, namely, the level summit of the promontory; and from these towers, a strong garrison could annoy a besieging enemy with arrows and projectiles, cross-bows and engines, upon the roofs. The side-long staircase is a Norman addition to the Keep-tower, as a better defence than the narrow flight of steps at right angles in front, which, according to Mr. King, and Cornish remains, distinguishes the Anglo-Saxon Keep. The chief method of attacking being by mining, and working upon the bottom of the walls by knights in the ditch, with pick-axes, and covered by others with pavaches, or large targets, the foundations and lower walls of these towers are prodigiously strong.\* Mr. Grose notices a rare addition of buttresses below;† for the materials of the castle, being excavated all round, so as to make the Quarry form the Ditch; the latter was made more deep by these accompaniments, as well as the Towers better protected.

This was a very usual thing. Denon says ‡ To turn this situation [Castro-Giovanni in Sicily,] to double profit, and defend the approaches to the walls, they have hewn out of the rock, at the foot

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\* Grose's Military Antiquities, i, 385 plate.

† They occur on a smaller scale at Chepstow; and thus show, that these parts, in both castles, are coeval.

‡ Sicily, p. 95. Eng. Tranac.



of these very walls, the stones made use of in building it." Grose notices the singular additions of the pyramidal Buttresses at the foot of the towers. On the window jambs of one of these towers is the inscription below\*, which nobody can make out, because it was either never finished, or the stone is broken. Besides this, are a man with a hawk on his fist, (the emblem of nobility) a dog at his feet: on another the Virgin-Mother, a hawk standing on a partridge, rabbits at play, birds, &c. The Keep being the residence of the family, *this* tower appears to have been used for that of prisoners of war, detained until they were ransomed, by whom these figures were apparently carved. In castles, the upper ranges or apartments were occupied by the family and superior officers, the lower by servants; or they were offices. Although, in general there was a gallery of communication around the whole building, only wide enough for one man to pass, and niches with water-cocks, and seats for the guard, yet numerous doors opened into the Bailey, because our ancestors mostly lived in these castles, in suites of apartments, similar to those of the Inns of Court.

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\* Bonnor, No. iv, pl. xiii, has engraved it in facsimile. It is plainly **MASTRSUMT** (stone broken off)—**ADAM HASTUN**. The form of the letters is of the end of the fourteenth, or beginning of the fifteenth century.

On the Eastern side is the shell of a chapel, with piscinas, lockers, &c. for the ceremonies of the mass.

The fine column by the Hall, the use of which has puzzled many, was for the centre of the grand Stair-case, like that at Christ Church, Oxford; for a grand stair-case and parlour were adjacent to ancient halls. The tower, which enclosed it, is destroyed, for the mouth of the mine which partly effected it, or was intended to do so, is on the left hand side of the ascending path to the castle; and it was besides, battered in breach from the opposite hill. From the S. W. angle of the castle, by the wicket field gate, may be seen the trench by which the besiegers advanced to storm the castle, and from the Barbican is a very fine view of the front of the fabrick, and, facing the north, of the surrounding country. The traveller should remember that the fields around once formed a Park the uninclosed state of which, must have finely harmonized with the rude ground of Coppet-wood hill, and been surprisingly enriched by the winding of the river, and the picturesque additions of the Priory in the middle distance, and the Church Spire.

Tourists generally walk from hence to the Priory, where the boat usually meets them; but a traveller observes, that it is a plan by no means to be recommended: since by missing a circuit round the castle, its different tints and variety of attitudes,

occasioned by one of the boldest sweeps of the Wye, are entirely lost.\* The castle however in these views has no back ground, or other set off of consequence. In general, it appears an indiscriminate heap of building: at all events, these are the very worst views of it,

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STAGE SECOND.

Goodrich Castle to Symond's Yat.

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*Right Bank.*

FIRST, PLANESFORD PRIORY, NOW A FARM—  
SECOND, COPPET WOOD HILL—THIRD, COURT-  
FIELD—FOURTH, WELCH BICKNOR CHURCH—  
FIFTH, MONUMENT—SIXTH, BOTTOM OF COP-  
PET WOOD HILL.

*Left Bank.*

FIRST, WALFORD CHURCH—SECOND, LAYB HILL  
THIRD, BISHOP'S WOOD—FOURTH, RUERDEAN  
SPIRE—FIFTH, LYDBROOK—SIXTH, ROSEMARY  
TOPPING—SEVENTH, COLDWELL ROCKS—  
EIGHTH, SYMOND'S YAT.

**A**FTER leaving the castle, the right view is decli-  
ning precipice and hill, skirting narrow meadows;  
the left, flat pastures with Walford Church, and  
Village. In the N. E. and E. distance, the Chae-

\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 433.

and Penyard Woods, and Howl Hill. On the S. E. is the promontory termination of Coppet Wood hill, and rocks projecting westwards.

The first object on the right, is the remains of FLANESFORD PRIORY, of which the Chapel is now a barn. The rest consists of mere fragments, worked up into the requisite buildings of a farm, now occupied by Mr. Bellamy. The Chapel was an elegant gothic structure, of which, further mention will be made in the historical department.

From hence the Wye takes a bold turn, at which commences the proper introduction of its characteristic scenery, mountainous and rocky banks, here in fine undulating outlines of harmonious curves. Upon the right side is the long steep ridge of Coppet wood, teathed at the beginning with a ledge of rude rocks, ground partly heath, partly wood: upon the left is Bishop's wood, a more gradual ascent, dotted irregularly with cottages, orchards, and patches of wood, all rising in amphitheatre above each other.

“ As we leave *Goodrich Castle*, says Gilpin, the banks on the left, which had hitherto contributed less to entertain us, began now principally to attract our attention, rearing themselves gradually into grand steeps; sometimes covered with thick woods, and sometimes forming vast concave slopes of mere verdure; unadorned, except here and there.

by a straggling tree: while the sheep which hang browsing upon them, seen from the bottom, were diminished into white specks."

"The view at *Ruer-dean-church* unfolds itself next; and is a scene of great grandeur. Here both sides of the river are steep, and both woody; but in one, the woods are intermixed with rocks. The deep umbrage of the forest of Dean occupies the front; and the spire of the church rises among the trees. The reach of the river which exhibits this scene, is long; and of course, the view, which is a noble piece of natural perspective, continues some time before the eye: but when the spire comes directly in front, the grandeur of the landscape is gone."

"The *stone-quarries* on the right, from which Bristol bridge was built, and on the left, the *furnaces of Bishop's wood*, vary the scene; though they are objects of no great importance in themselves." Thus Gilpin.

On the left are Bishop's Wood Iron works, and Coal-wharf: behind which is Bishop's Wood house, belonging to John Partridge, Esq. and occupied by Mrs. Ives, the mother of his lady. The brook which here runs into the Wye, called Bishop's brook, parts the counties of Hereford and Gloucester, and the parishes of Walford and Ruerdean. The latter, called Ruerdean, from (River-dean) has

much scenery, eminently picturesque, left of the river on the Lydbrook road, and in the forest. It consists of rude and broken elevations, and rough valleys, irregularly serpentine, adorned with purling streams, and trees, never formal, because untouched by the axe. The water bubbles in small cascades over lumps of rock; and the herbage is roughened into the picturesque by small tumps of long grass, weeds, furze, and wild bushes.

“ For some time says Gilpin, both sides of the river continue steep and beautiful. No particular circumstance indeed characterizes either; but in such exhibitions as these nature characterizes her own scenes. We admire the infinite *variety* with which she *shapes* and *adorns* these vast concave and convex forms. We admire also that *varied touch* with which she expresses every object.”

“ Here we see one great distinction between *her* painting and that of all her *copyists*. Artists universally are *mannerists* in a certain degree. Each has his particular mode of forming particular objects. His rocks, his trees, his figures, are cast in one mould; at least they possess only a *varied sameness*. The figures of Rubens are all full fed; those of Salvator square and long legged: but nature has a different mould for every object she presents.”

“ The artist again discovers as little *variety* in

filling up the surfaces of bodies, as he does in delineating their forms. You see the same *touch*, or something like it, universally prevail, though applied to different objects. But nature's touch is as much varied as the form of her objects."

"In every part of painting except execution, an artist may be assisted by the labours of those who have gone before him. He may improve his skill in composition, in light and shade, in perspective, in grace and elegance; that is, in all the scientific parts of his art. But with regard to *execution*, he must set up on his own stock. A *mannerist*, I fear he must be. If he get a manner of his own, he *may* be an agreeable mannerist; but if he copy anothers he *will certainly* be a formal one. The more closely he copies the details of nature, the better chance he has of being free from this general defect."

"At *Lydbrook* is a large wharf, where coals are shipped for Hereford and other places. Here the scene is new and pleasing. All has thus far been grandeur and tranquillity. It continues so yet; but mixed with life and bustle. A road runs diagonally along the bank; and horses and carts appear passing to the small vessels which lie against the wharf to receive their burdens. Close behind, a rich woody hill hangs sloping over the wharf, and forms a grand back-ground to the whole. The

contrast of all this business, the engines used in lading and unlading, together with the variety of the scene, produce altogether, a picturesque assemblage. The sloping hill is the front scene; the two side-screens are low."

" But soon the front becomes a lofty side-screen on the left; and sweeping round the eye at *Welch Bicknor*, forms a noble amphitheatre" Thus Gilpin.

On the right, just beyond the turn of the river, opposite Lydbrook, is Court-field House, the modern seat of William Vaughan, Esq. and King Henry, V. is said to have been nursed in a more ancient house on this spot. A gable end wall with gothic arches is called the ruins of the chapel.\* Beneath is WELCH BICKNOR Church. Ireland says, " that the picturesque village of Welch Bicknor, presents itself in a rich valley on the right bank of the Wye, happily overshadowed by a thicket of woods, ranged in a grand and circular sweep. These are called, *Hawkwood*, and *Puckwood*, extending about one mile, along the bank of the river. The village Church and Parsonage House, group in a form peculiarly beautiful and interesting. A little below, the Wye is bounded on the opposite shore, by a long range of hills clothed with verdure, and diversified by a rich and broken soil of warm

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\* Cambrian Tourist, 434.



and reddish hue.\* Here the colouring is too warm. The scene is merely fine park landscape. The flat ground on the right is gloomy and tedious. Towards the end of it, is a picturesque hill in front called *Rosemary Topping*, from the mellow luxuriance of its sides. As we approach this, the grandeur of the Wye scenery recommences at Coldwell Rocks, which nature has exposed to view by an avalanche of the ground from the summit. They form the upper part of the base of Symond's Yat. Just before approaching them is the cenotaph of an unfortunate youth, whose parents erected this monument, by way of beacon, to warn others from trusting to the deceitful stream. A gentleman named Warre, with his lady, &c. was making the Tour; and the weather being fine, they persuaded their son, who was a good swimmer to bathe. Unfortunately he was seized with the cramp, and a vain attempt having been made by the boatman to save him, was unhappily drowned. The epitaph is tedious. Some wretch has lately mutilated the monument.

The scene at Coldwell, on the left side, commences by a grand mass of rock, partially insulated of rude resemblance to the square keep of a ruined Castle. It is succeeded by a wall of rock, much

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\* Nicholson, 1356.

assimilating St. Vincent's, at the Hot-wells, near Bristol. Here and at the New Weir, in a style totally different from the stiff and bare forms of the Chepstow Cliffs, nature exhibits her divine skill in colouring and grouping. The attitudes of the rocks, though all in fanciful caprice, are of graceful informality. The most delicate touches are distinguishable at certain seasons, in an exquisite lacework of shrubs and foliage running over the whole, of a wild, but harmonious pattern. The river too is deep, dark, and solemn. The opposite bank is a succession of steep slopes, variously wooded, terminating in a hilly common of brown mountainous herbage, speckled with loose stones, and thinly streaked with lively green.

Mr. Gilpin says thus, " At *Coldwell*, the front screen first appears as a woody hill, [Rosemary Topping] swelling to a point. In a few minutes it changes its shape, and the woody hill becomes a lofty side-screen on the right ; while the front unfolds itself into a majestic piece of rock-scenery."

Approaching, says Ireland, the foot of *Coldwell Rocks*, a scene sublime and majestic is presented. The grand prominences are overhung with richly varied tufts of oak and shrubs occasionally contrasted and relieved by deep and shadowy dells, formed by the various lime-kilns on their surface : Warner who advanced to them, in an opposite direction

from the meadows westward, observes, that here also the scene becomes truly majestic. The rocks rising to a towering height, alternately start through the thick woods, which mantle their sides in lofty pointed crags; and display broad masses of their surface, relieved by creeping lichens, and diversified with mineral tinges.

“ Here says Gilpin, we should have gone on shore and walked to the *New Weir*, which by land is only a mile: though by water I believe, it is three. This walk would have afforded us, we were informed, some very noble river views: nor should we have lost any thing by relinquishing the water, which in this part was uninteresting.”

The walk alluded to, leads to the rocky abrupt termination of Coldwell Promontory, and is called Symond's Yat, or Gate. From hence is a superb bird's-eye view of the adjacent objects, and a far-extending prospect in what may be called from Claude's Pictures, the painter's map style. The near view is *Salvator Rosa*; the distant that of the master first named. The summit itself is a romantic green floor, walled in, without any formality, by copse-wood, and approached by a winding rocky road between high banks, under arches of hazles and underwood.



## STAGE THIRD.

*Symond's Yat, to Monmouth.*~~~~~  
*Right Bank.*

FIRST, COPPET WOOD HILL—SECOND, GOOD-  
RICH—THIRD, WHITCHURCH—FOURTH, GREAT  
DOWARD—FIFTH, ARTHUR'S VALE—SIXTH  
LITTLE DOWARD, AND LAYS HOUSE—SEVENTH,  
DIXTON CHURCH—EIGHTH, MONMOUTH.

*Left Bank.*

FIRST, NEW WEIR—SECOND, HIGHMEADOW  
WOODS—THIRD, TABLE MOUNT, &c—FOURTH,  
MONMOUTH.

ALL the accounts agree in stating, that SYMOND'S YAT, [or GATE,] is not less than 2000 feet above the water; and that although the direct distance by land is not more than 600 yards, the course by water exceeds four miles. One account is thus copious on the prospect.

“The forest of Dean, the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, and Gloucester, were extended before us, studded with villages, diversified with clusters of half visible farm houses;” with many a grey steeple, embosomed high in tufted trees. In painting the several views from this summit, the happiest description would fail; the impression can only be conveyed by the eye. The river here

makes a most extraordinary winding round the promontory; and having completed a circuit of more than five miles, flows a second time immediately under Symond's Yat. The whole of this mazy course may be traced from this eminence. From hence we discovered a very remarkable polysyllabical articulate echo, and we reckoned twelve distinct reverberations, from the explosion of a gun, fired upon this spot. It is here again customary for the boatmen to importune strangers, and if they can prevail on them, during their walk to *Symond's Yat*, will take the boat round the circuit of five miles, and meet them at New Weir, in order that no time should be lost, but this attempt we by no means encouraged; and the whole course of this extraordinary and romantic sweep proved highly gratifying. Goodrich spire, which we again wound round, presented itself: huge fragments of massy rocks, which have rolled down from the precipices opposite *Manuck Farm*, here almost choked up the course of the stream. The changing attitudes and various hues of *Symond's Yat*, lifting its almost spiral head, high above the other rocks, as we receded and drew near it, supplied a combination of tints surprisingly gay and beautiful: and having accomplished a sweep of five miles, we reached within a quarter of a mile, the spot where we began our

ascent to this steep eminence."\* In more precise language, the prospect is a fine panorama of the following scenery.

N. The mountainous side of Coppet wood hill, Common, and here, and there, Rock.

N. W. The spire and village of Goodrich, gentle green wooded pastures; at the foot, Rocklands and Huntsholm Ferry.

W. *Huntsholm*, a promontory of fields and orcharding; behind it, meadows, terminating on the other side of the river, in the flat village of Whitchurch, backed by rising ground; in the distance, the Welch Hills.

S. W. The mountainous side of the Great Doward, Common and Heath interspersed with cottages and enclosures. At the extreme summit, a summer house.

S. Staunton Church, upon the ridge of a promontory, the Buck-stone appearing at the nose of it, like a Yew tree: below, Lord Gage's or *High-meadow Woods*, in fine slope; at the foot, green meadows and the river. On the left side anear, the rocks of the New Weir; on the right, the rock wall of the Eastern side of the Doward, faced by high trees.

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\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 435

S. E. English Bicknor—cultivation intermixed with forest scenery; copse and cottage; anear, a side view of Coldwell Rocks in terrific attitude; and Rosemary Topping.

E. Ruerdean Wood and Fields with the Church in the distance; Bishop's Wood and Courtfield, with the semicircular sweeps of Hawkwood and Puckwood, before described, and joining Coppetwood, whence we commenced the description.

From hence the river proceeds in a horse shoe curve, around meadows and pleasing prospect scenery to Whitchurch. Mr. Gilpin, says,

“ Here we sailed through a long reach of hills, whose sloping sides were covered with large lumpish, detached stones, which seemed in a course of years, to have rolled from a girdle of rocks that surrounds the upper regions of these high grounds on both sides of the river; but particularly on the left.”

If the travellers prefer the Boat-passage, they will come to Huntsholm Ferry. On the right is Rocklands, now the residence of J. Gough, Esq. commanding a view of Coldwell Rocks, along the fine side-screen of Coppet hill: on the left, a seventeenth-century seat of the Vaughans, now a farm house. Upon the slope of the hill is a fine orchard, celebrated for the immense quantity of styre, or

other rich cider, it has been known to produce. If the traveller prefers leaving the boat at Hunts-holm Ferry, (and the ascent is easier to Symond's Yat) the ledge of rocks will bring to his view, spots worthy "the feasting banditti" of Salvator. Just above the place where the road passes between a cleft rock, the Giant Torso,\* of the Great Doward shows its grand muscular outline. The effect is infinitely increased by being seen through mist or rain. It is part-mountain, part-precipice, but much injured by the rawness and strait lines, introduced by lime-burning and road-cutting. Unfortunately there is no chance of Time, Nature's Gilpin, preventing, in that master's own words "the hand of man, miserably scratching the lovely face of nature."

By this reach we come to the New Weir, a salmon fishery, which Mr. Gilpin terms the second grand scene on the Wye. Here is a Lock, an invention known in Upper Egypt, from ancient models,† and brought into this country from Flanders, in 1652, by Sir Richard Sutton, who is also said to have introduced Clover, and Saintfoin.‡

The scene at the New Weir, consists of exquisite crags, thrown into fine confusion by falls from the upper rim. These crags are full of projections and recesses, and heaps of ruin all shrubbed.

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\* A Torso is the trunk of a statue without limbs.

† Denon, i. 391.

‡ Bray's Surrey, i. 134.



and weatherholed, and forming a most romantic variety of shelves, rude arches, clefts, and mimic towers. Between these, and the opposite bank of rock-wall and hanging wood, the river, rapid and confined, roars hastily along. In front are the rich eminences forming Lord Gage's Woods, rising above or lapping over each other. Along the banks is a series of meadows, of deep rich green, just enlivening the dusky sublime gloom of the narrow dell. A single rock column gives an agreeable novelty to the side crags. It is only one of many others similar, which were standing sixty years ago, insulated from the main wall of rock,\* but now either fallen, or gormandized by the ravenous lime-kiln, who, regardless of the beauties of the Wye, "In grim repose expects his evening prey."

Of these rock pilasters, it is worth while to point out the extraordinary effect, by the following observation of Dr. Clarke.†

"He observed near Seraibashti the most remarkable appearance caused by rocks, that he had ever seen. At first he mistook them for ruins, somewhat resembling those of Stonehenge; but, as his party drew near they were surprised to find, that the supposed ruins were natural rocks, rising

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\* So Martin: *Natural History of England*, i, 341.

† *Travels* viii, 5.

perpendicularly out of the plain, like a Cyclopean structure, with walls and towers."

The Counsel, who attend the Assizes, are in the habits of exploring the Wye, and, as it is said, have given name to several rocks, particularly in this part of the river, as Linnæus called Plants, and Officers do newly discovered countries, by the names of friends. This rock-pillar is said to have been thus denominated *Bear-croft*, an eminent Barrister, well-known to the older part of the existing generation.\*

Mr. Gilpin says "The river is wider than usual in this part; and takes a sweep round a towering promontory of rock; which forms the side-screen on the left, and is the grand feature of the view. It is not a broad fractured face of rock: but rather a woody hill, from which large rocky projections in two or three places, burst out; rudely hung with twisting branches and shaggy furniture, which like mane round the lion's head, give a more savage air to these wild exhibitions of nature. Near the top, a pointed fragment of solitary rock, rising above the rest, has rather a fantastic appearance; but it is not without its effect in marking the scene.—A great master in landscape has adorned an imaginary view with a circumstance exactly similar."

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\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 437.

" Stabat actua silex, præcisus andiq; saxis;

" —dorso insurgens, altissima visu,

" Dirarum nidis domus opportuna volucrum,

" —prona jugo, lævum incumbibat ad amnem."

Æn. VIII. 233.

" But the most wonderful appearance of this kind I ever met with, is to be found in the 249th page of Anderson's Narrative of the British Embassy to China; where he tells us, that in Tartary, beyond the wall, he saw a solitary rock of this kind, which rose from the summit of a mountain, at least one hundred feet. Its base was somewhat smaller than its superstructure, and, what was very extraordinary, several streams of water issued from it."

" On the right side of the Wye, opposite the rock, we have just described, the bank forms a woody amphitheatre, following the course of the stream round the promontory. Its lower skirts are adorned with a hamlet, in the midst of which, volumes of thick smoke, thrown up at intervals from an iron-forge, as its fires receive fresh fuel, add double grandeur to the scene."

" But what peculiarly marks this view, is a circumstance on the water. The whole river at this place makes a precipitate fall; of no great height indeed, but enough to merit the name of a cascade; though to the eye, above the stream, it is an object of no consequence. In all the scenes

we had yet passed, the water moving with a slow and solemn pace, the objects around kept time, as it were, with it; and every steep and rock which hung over the river, was awful, tranquil, and majestic. But here the violence of the stream and the roaring of the waters, impressed a new character on the scene; all was agitation and uproar; and every steep and every rock, stared with wildness and terror."

With Gilpin's description, the travellers seem to have satisfied themselves. One only has justly remarked, that the pleasure of contemplation is interrupted by the nuisance of beggars.\*

Below the New Weir a continuation of the same rich scenery still arrests attention, and rocks and wood seem to push and shoulder each other for conspicuous situations. The river roars along in a curve, between High-meadow woods on the left, and the rock-wall of the GREAT DOWARD, on the right. At the end of this reach, is a beautiful mass of rock, crowned with shrubs and pendulous creepers; in front, the river forms a pool, and is back-grounded by the summit of the Little Doward in Sugar-loaf.† A detached cluster of rocks, called *S. Martin's*, or the three sisters, skirt the river in passing down, near which at a short reach

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\* Id. 439.

† Mr. Marklove of Berkeley, has selected and painted this fine scene.

called S. Martin's Well; the stream is supposed to have a greater depth of water than any other part. At the extremity of this reach, from a beautiful vale, King Arthur's plain, seen before, again presents itself, assuming a castellated form.

When light and prospect recommence at the termination of the dark windings from the New Weir, the scenery on the Doward side is mountainous common, sprinkled with rock and occasionally toothed with ledges of it. The **LITTLE DOWARD** having been a fine British Camp, traces of three circular terraces winding in snail mount, may be dimly discerned; but are only conspicuous from the heights in the Forest. On the left hand are woody and wild elevations, interspersed with tame swells and hollows. The scene terminates with the Lays House, R. Tomlinson's Esq. at the foot of the Little Doward on the right, opposite Table Mount. In front is a rich amphitheatre of hanging wood; on the right of which is Newton Court, the seat of Mrs. Griffin; below, on the water's edge, Vaga Cottage, the property of the Rev. H. Barnes, and now occupied by Dr. Price.

Upon the turn of the reach at the Lays, the river gently serpentine through a wider valley, down to Monmouth. The right side consists of

fields, forming the area of the sylvan amphitheatre, before described, and the left is made up of meadows in flat, swell, and hollow, intermingled with woody ridges, in front of steep side-screens of wood. Before, in the distance, is hill, and the steep banks of the river beyond Troy House, properly clothed with copse or timber. The church passed is that of Dixon.

The river is rather too low for a proper view of the scenery here, which is best seen from the road. This lowness is probably the cause why Mr. Gilpin as if gaping and sleepy, thus slabbers over a fine scene of continual change, and inimitable grouping. "Below the *New Weir*, are other rocky views of the same kind, though less beautiful. But description flags in running over such a monotony of terms. *High, low, steep, woody, rocky*, and a few others, are all the colours of language we have to describe scenes, in which there are infinite gradations, and amidst some general sameness, infinite peculiarities."

After we had passed a few of these scenes, the hills gradually descended into Monmouth, which lies too low to make any appearance from the water; but on landing we found it a pleasant town, and neatly built. The town-house and church are both handsome." Thus Gilpin. The other *lions* of Monmouth are a ruined tower of the Castle, with a

fine window of the florid Gothic, pretended to be that of the room where Henry V. was born ; some other windows and remains of the Priory ; fragments of town-gates and S. Thomas's Church erroneously called Saxon, but plainly of the first Norman style. The greatest curiosity is however the ancient Gate House. Tourists ought to stay a day at Monmouth in order to visit the *Kymyn* and *Buck-stone*, from which last is to be seen a view, only surpassed by Wind-cliff, and far superior to Symond's Yat, inasmuch as it is totally void of the usual and common place, and consists of wood, river, mountain and precipice, wholly without flat ground, and grouped in a manner completely novel, in the true superb of the picturesque. Though extending for miles, not a single map feature dilutes the sublime grandeur of this view from the Buck-stone, where fancy still places the Druid Priest, moving the oracular rock, and dealing out the fate of nations to the intimidated worshippers.

If time permits, there are, according to the travellers, minor views worthy notice. Monmouth from a station at Tibbs's Farm, appears placed upon a semicircular ridge ; near Tibbs's Bridge, the scene is wild and romantic ; from other points it appears situated upon a plain ; from the banks of the Wye, the houses seem rising upon the acclivity of a hill, the church forming a principal object\*

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\* Nicholson, 918.

From the hill upon the road to Chepstow is a sublime prospect, both of the adjacent vale and town, skirted in the distance by the Skyridd, Bloreng, Sugar-loaf, and other blue mountains and ridges.

Here ends the first half of the Tour, which may justly be denominated "grand and beautiful." The following close of this part of the voyage by a Traveller is extremely *à propos*, as an epilogue.

"As we repaired to our Inn, we were involuntarily led to take a retrospect of the past amusements of the day. The partial gleams of sunshine had given additional tints to the rich and bold scenery, and every thing had conspired to render it a most interesting aquatic excursion. The variety of scenes, which Claude would have selected had he now existed, for his canvas; with rapture too, would he have caught the tints, and with the happiest effect combined the objects into a picture, kept up our attention, and removed that sameness, which too often accompanies water excursions. Such had been the pleasure of our first day's water expedition: and from the impression it made on us, we eagerly looked forward to some future period, when we may again retrace views, which memory will ever hold dear, and the pleasure be then redoubled with the remembrance of past occurrences."\*

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\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 400.



## STAGE FOURTH.

*Monmouth, to Tintern Abbey.**Right Bank.*

FIRST, TROY HOUSE—SECOND, PENALT—THIRD  
WHITE-BROOK—FOURTH, PENN-Y-VAN HILL  
AND MAYPOLE—FIFTH, PAPER MILLS—SIXTH  
PILSTONE HOUSE—SEVENTH, LANDOGO—  
EIGHTH, COEDITHEL WEIR—NINTH, LYN-  
WEIR—TENTH, TINTERN—ELEVENTH, FIELD-  
ING'S HOUSE—TWELFTH, ABBEY.

*Left Bank.*

FIRST, REDBROOK—SECOND, NEWLAND AND  
CLEARWELL—THIRD, WYE SEAL HOUSE—  
FOURTH, BICKSWEIR—FIFTH, ST. BRIAVELS—  
SIXTH, HUDKNOLLS—SEVENTH, BROOKWEIR  
—EIGHTH, ABBEY.

**T**HE banks of the Wye owe their beauty to a rocky base; because only a thin coat of earth can ever be washed away, and, if it be, provided there is not such steepness as to create a mere gutter, it only breaks and improves into picturesque inequalities of surface the formal acclivity. Had the foundations of the banks been earthy, the latter would have flattened into mere hills, with round outlines. This result of the rocky base particularly appears in this tour. The forms of the banks

are of the house-roof kind, with a sameness of angular outline. Though they rise above each other in ridges, yet the usual mountainous curve is not so frequent as the strait or oblique rocky line. The cloathing, mere stumpy copse wood, will not bear close examination, as being much of the thorn character. The crags which are of the more marine kind, are often naked and uniform. The river runs sometimes stiffly, as in a trough, and often turns absolute corners, quite sharp.—Yet with all these imperfections, stated merely to show the contrast between *the fine* intermixed with sweet landscape in the former tour; such is the grand scale upon which nature works, that all is lost in the general effect, which is the sublime and awful, (precipice and height being the general agents,) occasionally worked up to the terrible. Vaga from Ross to Monmouth is a fine woman with strong features, but cheered with the playful smiles of youth: from Monmouth to Chepstow she is the grave matron, stern and commanding, like the august picture of Justice by Reynolds.\* In the first tour she is a Princess; in the second a Queen.

The first object just beyond Monmouth, is on the right, Troy House, a seat of the Duke of Beaufort, built by Inigo Jones. It derived its name from the rivulet Trothy, and stands in meadows,

\* From his painting of the four Cardinal Virtues in New College Window.

on the right mouth of the steep pass, which the Wye enters, as the customary scene of retirement, which it likes to inhabit. A little above Troy is Gibraltar, a neat Cottage.

Upon leaving Monmouth, the spire of the church in the retrospect, with the Kymin woods rising from a rock of great height on the left, under which the river meanders, and to the right Pen-y-val Hill, form the rich and bold scenery, which attends the first re-embarkation.\*

At the distance of little better than half a mile the river makes a grand sweep to the right, and, assumes a new character. Dismissing its rocks and precipices, it rolls through lofty sloping hills, thickly covered with waving woods. All here is solemn, still, and agreeable.†

Mr Gilpin says, "As we left Monmouth, the banks on the left were at first low; but on both sides they soon grew steep and woody; varying their shapes as they had done the day before. The most beautiful of these scenes is in the neighbourhood of St. Briavel's castle; where the vast woody declivities on each hand are uncommonly magnificent. The castle is at too great a distance to make any object in the view."

"The weather was serene: the sun shone; and

\* Cambrian Tourist.

† Nicholson.

we saw enough of the effect of light in the exhibitions of this day, to regret the want of it the day before."

" During the whole course of our voyage from Ross, we had scarcely seen one corn-field. The banks of the Wye consist almost entirely either of wood or pasturage; which I mention as a circumstance of peculiar value in landscape. Furrowed lands and waving corn, however charming in pastoral poetry, are ill-accommodated to painting. The painter never desires the hand of art to touch his grounds.—But if art *must* stray among them: if it *must* mark out the limits of property, and turn them to the uses of agriculture, he wishes that these limits may, as much as possible, be concealed; and that the lands they circumscribe may approach as nearly as may be to nature; that is, that they may be pasturage.—Pasturage not only presents an agreeable surface; but the cattle which graze it add great variety and animation to the scene."

" The meadows below Monmouth, which ran shelving from the hills to the water side, were particularly beautiful, and well inhabited. Flocks of sheep were everywhere hanging on their green steeps; and herds of cattle occupying the lower grounds. We often sailed past groups of them laving their sides in the water; or retiring from the heat under sheltered banks."

“ In this part of the river also, which now begins to widen, we were often entertained with light vessels gliding past us. Their white sails passing along the sides of wood-land hills were very picturesque.”

“ In many places also the views were varied by the prospect of bays and harbours in miniature, where little barks lay moored, taking in ore and other commodities from the mountains. These vessels, designed plainly for rougher water than they at present encountered, shewed us, without any geographical knowledge, that we approached the sea.” Thus Gilpin.

On the Monmouthshire side of the river, about a mile and a half below Monmouth, is the church of PENALT, situated on the side of a woody eminence, at the back of which is an extensive common. Opposite Penalt, is the Castle-imitation seat, of the Hon. — Quin, before him, of the Wyndhams.

At RED-BROOK hills, a little further on the left, the curling smoke issuing from the Iron-works forms a pleasing accompaniment to the scenery, the inspiration of which it for a while suspends.\* Below are lower Red-brook Tin-works. Such Cyclopean shops and sheds, in a beautiful Arcadia of Nymphs, Dryads, Naiads and Fauns, remind us

\* Cambrian Tourist. — Nicholson.

of the discordant union of Vulcan and Venus. The grim worshipers of the God of Fire, only animate with picturesque effect immense vaulted caverns ; and their deity should have been wedded to Bel-lousia, the boisterous daughter of Æolus, from whom he derived the power of liquefying the obstinate ore.

Two miles from Red-brook on the left, is Wye Seal House ; and on the right, in a hollow vale, nearly hidden from sight by the woody acclivities on each side, is the hamlet of WHITE-BROOK, where Paper Mills now occupy the ruins of the old Iron-works. The name is derived from a small stream which falls into the Wye. Beyond it the river forms a grand sweep, flowing into an abyss, between two ranges of lofty hills, thickly over-spread with woods.

A little below White-brook, appears on the left side, a considerable eminence, called Pen-y-van Hill, the summit of which usually exhibits a May-pole, around which the Peasantry now or recently celebrated the Roman Floralia, called by us May-games, with dances and feasting.

Between this hill and the river lie the ruins of the ancient mansion of Pilstone, humbled to the mere appendages of a farm. On the opposite side of the river, amidst grand scenery and hills luxuriantly mantled with wood, stands Bigs-weir

House, late the residence of General Rooke, long M. P. for the county of Monmouth, and a descendant of Sir George Rooke, who took Gibraltar. The House stands at an easy distance from the river on a gentle rise, which gradually swells into an extensive hill, on whose summit are the remains of the Castle of St. BRIAVELS.

Here one of the accounts\* makes the following remark. "The voyager will lose one interesting feature almost peculiar to the Wye; we allude to the numerous weirs, that obstruct its navigation, when the tide is out; but at which time, these minute cataracts (if we may be allowed the expression) form a pleasing contrast to the smooth surface of the intervening pools. At high water the tide flows over them, and makes the river appear perfectly level."

"We have hitherto only had occasion to notice New-weir and Bigs-weir; but from the latter to a considerable distance below Tintern Abbey, they occur very frequently scarcely half a mile from each other."

From hence a long reach, with Tiddenham Chase Hill, rising conspicuously in front, leads to the beautiful village of Landogo. It stands upon a lofty hill, whose indented side is mantled with deep woods; and cottages are intermingled.

\* Excursion from the source of the Wye, &c. p. 55.

Here the river forms a smooth bay. The Hudknolls make a fine back-ground to this scene. From the brow of the hill behind, called Cleiaden Shoots, is a pretty view of the river and village. In winter a cascade falls from this abrupt eminence

From hence the Wye becomes a tide river, and the result is, that the translucent stream, which had hitherto alternately reflected, as in a mirror, the awful projection of the rocks, and the soft flowery verdure of its banks, is affected by the influence of the tide, and rendered turbid and unpleasing to the eye.\*

*Coedithel-weir*, a large fall of water next occurs.

About a mile further on the left bank of the river is Brook-weir, a populous little hamlet, one of those little ports, the formation of which was so encouraged by Henry and Elizabeth when the nobility to get rid of the lead, wool, and other articles upon their estates, supplied the merchants with money, who, from factors, at last became principals.† The trade is carried on with Bristol: the freights, chiefly, corn, hoops, and faggots.

Leaving Brook-weir, one bank of the river is fringed with a thick woody acclivity; and on the other are some rich meadows, which terminate at the village of Tintern.

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\* Cambrian Tourist, 446.

† Lodge's Illustrations of British History, vol, 2. p. 211.



Upon rounding the point at Lyn-weir, the church of Tintern, only a few yards from the water's edge, has a singular and picturesque appearance. A house, formerly belonging to the family of Fielding was battered, says Tradition, by the parliamentary troops, from the brow of the hill, on the opposite side of the river, where there has certainly been an encampment.

From Tintern we soon reach the celebrated ruin of the Abbey, estimated with its appendages, the most beautiful and picturesque view on the river. Mr. Glover considers this opinion, as chiefly founded upon the ruin; and the declaration of Sir R. C. Hoare is, that "this abbey (as to the first coup d' œil) exceeds every ruin he had seen either in England or Wales." The fact is, that the scenes on the Wye are not proper subjects of comparison; that Tintern ranks in the scale of interest with any; but that such interest, though of equal strength, is of distinct character. One is curious and beautifully dressed rock, as Coldwell; another, picturesque craigs, as the New Weir; a third, as Abbey Tintern, a fine woody amphitheatre brought into double effect by the ruin; a fourth, as Windcliff a grand assemblage of precipice, and irregular abyss.

Mr. Gilpin says, "*Tintern-Abbey* occupies a gentle eminence in the middle of a circular valley,

beautifully screened on all sides by woody hills, through which the river winds its course ; and the hills, closing on its entrance and on its exit, leave no room for inclement blasts to enter. A more pleasing retreat could not easily be found. The woods and glades intermixed ; the winding of the river ; the variety of the ground ; the splendid ruin, contrasted with the objects of nature ; and the elegant line formed by the summits of the hills which include the whole, make altogether, a very enchanting piece of scenery. Every thing around breathes an air so calm and tranquil, so sequestered from the commerce of life, that it is easy to conceive, a man of warm imagination, in monkish times, might have been allured by such a scene to become an inhabitant of it."

" No part of the ruins of Tintern is seen from the river, except the abbey-church. It has been an elegant Gothic pile ; but it does not make that appearance as a *distant* object which we expected. Though the parts are beautiful, the whole is ill shaped. No ruins of the tower are left, which might give form and contrast to the buttresses and walls. Instead of this, a number of gabel-ends hurt the eye with their regularity, and disgust it by the vulgarity of their shape. A mallet judiciously used (but who durst use it ?) might be of service in fracturing some of them ; particularly those of the cross aisles, which are most disagree-

able in themselves, and confound the perspective."

" But were the building ever so beautiful, encompassed as it is with shabby houses, it could make no appearance from the river. From a stand near the road it is seen to more advantage."

" But if *Tintern-abbey* be less striking as a *distant* object, it exhibits, on a *nearer* view, (when the whole together cannot be seen,) a very enchanting piece of ruin. The eye settles upon some of its nobler parts.—Nature has now made it her own. Time has worn off all traces of the chisel; it has blunted the sharp edges of the rule and compass, and broken the regularity of opposing parts. The figured ornaments of the east window are gone: those of the west window are left. Most of the other windows, with their principal ornaments, remain."

" To these were superadded the ornaments of time.—Ivy in masses uncommonly large, had taken possession of many parts of the wall, and given a happy contrast to the grey-coloured stone of which the building is composed: nor was this undecorated. Mosses of various hues, with lichens, maiden-hair, penny-leaf, and other humble plants, had overspread the surface, or hung from every joint and crevice. Some of them were in flower, others only in leaf; but all together gave those full-blown tints which add the richest finishing to a ruin."

“Such is the beautiful appearance which Tintern Abbey exhibits on the *outside*, in those parts where we can obtain a nearer view of it. But when we *enter it* we see it in most perfection; at least if we consider it as an independent object, unconnected with landscape. The roof is gone, but the walls, and pillars, and abutments which supported it are entire. A few of the pillars have indeed given way; and here and there a piece of the facing of the wall: but in corresponding parts, one always remains to tell the story. The pavement is obliterated; the elevation of the choir is no longer visible; the whole area is reduced into one level, cleared of rubbish, and covered with neat turf, closely shorn; and interrupted with nothing but the noble columns which formed the aisles and supported the tower.”

“When we stood at one end of this awful piece of ruin, and surveyed the whole in one view, the elements of air and earth, its only covering and pavement; and the grand and venerable remains which terminated both, perfect enough to form the perspective, yet broken enough to destroy the regularity—the eye was above measure delighted with the beauty, the greatness, and the novelty of the scene. More *picturesque* it certainly would have been, if the area, unadorned, had been left with all its rough fragments of ruin scattered round; and bold was the hand that removed them;

yet as the outside of the ruin, which is the chief object of *picturesque curiosity*, is still left in all its wild and native rudeness, we excuse, perhaps we approve, the neatness that is introduced within: it *may* add to the *beauty* of the scene: to its *novelty* it undoubtedly *does*." Thus Gilpin.

His connivance at the bowling-green area is not however universally approved; for it is observed, that the care which has been officiously taken to remove every fragment lying scattered through the immense area of the fabric, and the smoothness of the shorn grass, which no scythe should have dared to clip, in a great measure perverts the character of the scene. These circumstances but ill accord with the mutilated walls of an ancient ruin.\* This is all very true, for such ironing the surface, as if it were linen, certainly will spoil any picture whatever by infallibly introducing primness and formality; but petticoats and high grass do not harmonize, and ladies would not promenade among nettles, and risque encountering toads and snakes, who are fond of ruinous heaps.

Tintern Abbey is an object worthy visiting by all descriptions of persons, which circumstance, if comfort were excluded, would not ensue with regard to any others than Antiquaries, and Ar-

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\* Cambrian Tourist, p. 447.

tists who love groping, and disregard wet feet and legs. Removal of the monuments was foolish, but mowing of the area was indispensable, if people were to walk about it pleasantly. A further remark on the subject will be made hereafter.

The rule of the Cistercian monks, who were great agriculturists, was to chuse sequestered spots of exquisite picturesque beauty.

Netley, near Southampton, is a striking specimen; and by taking in the offscape, a picture in the whole, finer than Tintern; but not as a limited landscape. The chronicle of Tintern Abbey states, that William Fitzosbert, Earl of Owe in Normandy, was presented by the Conqueror with the manors of Wollaston and Tidenham, for the maintenance of a garrison and forces, to effect conquests over the Welch. He left a son, Richard, who had the same privileges; and Richard had issue, Walter. This Walter, after his ancestors and himself had acquired all Nether-went and half of Grnn, then founded Tintern Abbey, in the year 1131.\* Thus the Abbey Chronicle; and here it is fit to make a short pause. Leland says "There was a sanctuary graunted to Tinterne, but ithath not be usid many a day."† It is well known that sanctuary was annexed to most of the Welch Churches; that

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\* Dugdale's Monasticon, i. 724.

† Collectanea, l. 104.

these were built at, or near Druidical places of worship,† and that those of Christian appropriation, deserted by the British clergy, were favorite spots for donations to abbies among the Anglo-Saxons, that they might not disgust the prejudices of the conquered.§ Theodorick, a Christian prince, had a palace just by. There is room to think, that Walter, the first founder, by way of *amende honourable*, for his conquest over the Welch, did like Canute at Edmondsbury, found an abbey upon a spot previously sanctified. This foundation was however far from complete, for William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, in his confirmation charter, dated 7. Henry iii, mentions donations of his ancestors and *other* founders and donors; as also the gift of Trelleck, a Druidical spot, by Gilbert and Richard Strongbow.|| Walter dying in 1132, only *one year* after the foundation, without issue, and of course without time to finish such a pile of building, was succeeded by Gilbert, his brother and heir, first Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strong-bow, a term of the day for a great warrior; not implying skill in archery, which men at arms did not use.\* He died in 1148, and was buried at Tintern. To his titles and estates succeeded his son Richard Strong-bow.

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† Rowlands's *Mona Antiqua*, p. 221,

§ XV Scriptores, p. 60. || Dugdale, i. 723.

\* The term Bow was a common cant expression variously applied. See Douce on Shakespeare.

He died in 1178, and left an only daughter Isabella; she was married to William Marshall, the elder, who died and was buried at the Temple, London, in 1219. The issue of this William and Isabella was five sons and as many daughters. The former were all successively Earls of Pembroke, brother after brother, but died childless. Matilda the eldest daughter, married Hugh Bigot, Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, by whom she had a son, Hugh. This last Hugh was the father of Roger Bigot,† who, as William of Worcester asserts from the Abbey Obituary, built the church of Tintern, which was consecrated for divine service in 1287. His arms were accordingly placed in the east window. Upon the supposition, that the date of the foundation is always that of the fabrick, a position which instances beyond number confute, this date of William of Worcester is denied, but unjustly. The church is in all its parts, a unique whole, a copy of Salisbury Cathedral, built only a few years before; and whatever were the former buildings, (like Chepstow Castle, of the same style of architecture, and belonging to Roger,) they were both mixed up in the same fabrick, and probably by the same workmen. At Chepstow there are external marks of this alteration, but at Tintern none, at least visible, possibly because there is no access to the cript: all is in the style.

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† Dugdale ubi supra.



of the 13th century, i. e. in the words of Mr. S. Lysons, "simplicity and elegant ornament."\*

The resemblance between this church, and that of Netley, of the same æra, is strong. The west window has the mullions perfect, and most beautiful they are, in pattern. Still reasonable doubts may be entertained whether the church was even complete in 1287: for the great eastern window, of nearly the whole width of the choir, and carried almost as high as the vaulting, is of the style of the next century.† It was stripped of its lead in the wars of Charles I. and as the length of the church is 228 feet, the breadth 150, of course the height of the vaulting, was (according to the usual rule) of the last admeasurement.§ When the door of the Abbey is thrown open, the sudden effect is astonishing.

Whatever may be the offence to the picturesque, in landscape consideration, by keeping the interior of the church in the state of a green lawn, it is plain that it gives a mighty effect to the architectural beauty of the interior, by not distracting the eye from its elegant proportions: leaving the whole an unincumbered view; and adding a solemn vacancy, which introduces reflection and pensive-

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\* *Britannia*, ii. 53. † *Id.* p. 53. § *Willis's Cathedrals*, ii. 763. William of Worcester makes it only 11 fathoms, i. e. 66 feet.

ness. The grand back-ground, seen through the east-window, is truly sublime. The ivy especially on the right side of the nave, clusters in a manner which no scene of the kind, ever surpassed, perhaps never equalled—and all this in a spot, around which nature has spread an awful holiness. It is a hermitage scene; no flaunting flowers, or yellow heaths: but the attempered sober majesty of religion, where the lofty heights reduce the glaring day to a meek twilight, and a serene dark green of unvarying wood preserves the mind from any incongruous intrusion.

Such, even in ruin, is *holy* Tintern: what would it be, if entire, and as anciently “with storied windows richly dight.” The splendid hues would form a singular contrast to the gloomy grandeur of its shadowy recesses. The changes of the day and season would vary the effect, and give a new aspect to the objects of illumination. The rays of the sun at noon, streaming through the stained glass, would communicate its vivid tinge to the rude effigies in marble, and heraldic distinctions, with which the tombs and monuments were decorated. The approach of evening would deepen this visionary tone, and night add an indescribable solemnity. The moon, in a cloudless sky, shedding her beams through the painted glass on the dim shrines and fugitive memorials of the dead, in the immense nave, would form an imposing combi-

nation with the glimmering altars of the deity, and a martyrdom, or mournful story of the passion, vividly depicted in an elevated compartment of the window.—The whole would acquire a nameless character from the stillness of an hour, broken only by the echoes of a solitary foot-fall, or the melancholy cry of the birds of night.

“ In the dark ages, when the mind was more open to notions of preternatural agency, and the imagination less under the controul of reflection, the effect of such a scene must have been incalculable. A monk, “ or pale-eyed virgin,” at their orisons, or even a steel-clad knight of the cross, pacing the cold stone floor at midnight, in performance of his vow, and impressed with the prevailing belief, that the spirits of the deceased were nightly permitted to revisit the abodes of the living, might well raise their eyes to the lofty casement, in apprehension, that some sainted figure would descend from its station on the glass, and reveal a messenger from another world. For even an ordinary mind might think,”

“ In such a place, as this, at such an hour.  
If aught of ancestry can be believed,  
Descending angels have conversed with man,  
And told the secrets of the world unknown.”\*

The admirable effect of fine architectural build-

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\* This fine passage on stained glass, is from the Literary Gazette of July 12, 1817, p. p. 26, 27.

ings by moonlight is well known; and men of fancy and sentiment have happily applied the rule to this supreme ruin. One of them thus depicts his wishes, with which persons of taste will coincide, except with regard to the ghost part, upon which there will probably exist much difference, if not of opinion, at least of inclination.

“ The great tree, he says, or vegetable rock, or Emperor of the Oaks (if you please) before which you and I bowed with a sort of reverence in the fields of Tintern, and which for so many ages has borne all the blasts and bolts of Heaven; I should deem it a gratification of a superior kind, to approach again with “unsandaled foot” to pay the same homage, and to kindle with the same devotion.—But I should find amidst the magnificent ruins of the adjoining abbey, something of a sublimer cast, to interest and give poignancy to my feelings. I must be alone. My mind must be calm and pensive. It must be midnight. The moon half veiled in clouds, must be just emerging from behind the neighbouring hills. All must be silent, except the wind, gently rushing among the ivy of the ruins.—The river lulling by its faint murmurings its guardian genius to repose, and the owl whose funeral shriek would sometimes die along the walls in mysterious echoes. I should then invoke the ghosts of the abbey; and Fancy with one stroke of her magick wand, would rouse

them from their dusty beds, and lead them into the centre of the ruin. I should approach these shadowy existences with reverence, make enquiries respecting the customs and manners, and genius and fate of antiquity, desire to have a glimpse of the destiny of future ages, and enter upon conversations which would be too sacred and even dangerous to communicate.”\*

Now Tintern would be a most unfortunate spot for visits of speculation concerning future destinies, at least in the minds of old women, and poets, (who resemble in many points old women) for superstition and imagination are relatives. It is a singular coincidence, that *two kings* sought refuge at Tintern, and only left it to meet violent deaths, viz. Theodorick, King of Glamorgan, of whom under the Historical part, and King Edward ii. who fled here from the pursuit of his “She-wolf.”†

Of the scattered remains, many fine capitals of rich foliage, and beautiful mouldings, with quarterfoils, rosettes, and finely proportioned ogees, are interesting to the antiquary. There are also broken effigies of a knight in chain mail, a pavache shield, and crossed legs, as a Crusader, or a Vowee to take the cross: of an image of the Virgin Mary;

\* Reed's Remains, p. 164.  
M. S. S. p. 336.

† Smyth's Berkeley

and a third of less easy ascription. The figure of the knight is ascribed to Gilbert Strongbow, upon the authority of his interment here, mentioned by the Abbey Chronicle. It has been doubted, because he has been also said to have been buried at Dublin and at Gloucester.

The term may have been used from celebration of the funeral service in those churches, from respect or benefactions. Thus Queen Elizabeth was buried, and a picture of her tomb placed in numerous churches.\* The custom was continued at least till the last century, even with respect to Clergymen who held two livings, the burial service being performed in both their churches, and entries made accordingly in the Registers.†

This of Tintern is by the style of the armour, undoubtedly of the 12th century, and therefore most probably refers to Gilbert Strongbow. The rude sculpture of the hand has given rise to an opinion that he had five fingers.

The third effigy is that of a Saint, wrongly called an Abbot, though under a niche. It is in

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\* Fuller's Church History, Cent. xvii. p. 5. See too Strype's Stowe and Maitland. † Thus concerning the Author's Great Grandfather, who was Rector of Acton Scott, and Vicar of Diddlebury, county Salop, who died in 1726, there are burial entries in the Registers of both Parishes.

bas relief, lying upon bars: and seems to allude to that passage of the Golden Legend,† in the Life of St. Laurence, where Decyan says “brynge hyder a bedde of iron yt Laurence contymax may lie thereon,” which bed has been converted into a gridiron, as the symbol of that saint.

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STAGE FIFTH,

Tintern Abbey to Chepstow.

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*Right Bank.*

FIRST, NEVETT'S—SECOND, WINDCLIFF--THIRD  
LOVER'S LEAP—FOURTH, PIERSFIELD WALKS  
—FIFTH, TWELVE APOSTLES—SIXTH, CHEP-  
STOW CASTLE.

*Left Bank.*

FIRST, BANNAGOR CRAGS—SECOND, FRYER'S  
ROCKS—THIRD, LANCAUT—FOURTH, PIERS-  
FIELD BAY—FIFTH, TIDDENHAM ROCKS—  
SIXTH, TUTSHILL.

**M**R. Gilpin says, “The country about Tintern abbey hath been described as a solitary, tranquil silence; but its immediate environs only are meant. Within half a mile of it, are carried on great iron-works, which introduce noise and bustle into these regions of tranquillity.”

† Fol. cxxxv. Ed. 1503.

“ The ground about these works appears from the river to consist of grand woody hills, sweeping and intersecting each other in elegant lines. They are a continuation of the same kind of landscape as that about Tintern-abbey, and are fully equal to it.”

“ As we still descend the river, the same scenery continues : the banks are equally steep, winding, and woody ; and in some parts diversified by prominent rocks, and ground finely broken and adorned.”

“ But one great disadvantage began here to invade us. Hitherto the river had been clear and splendid ; reflecting the several objects on its banks. But its waters now became ouzy and discoloured. Sludgy shores too appeared on each side ; and other symptoms which discovered the influence of a tide.” Thus Gilpin.

The ground of the right bank of the river, on which stands *Abbey Tintern*, *Windcliff*, *Piersfield*, and *Chepstow Castle*, consists of an indented or scolloped outline, forming bays and promontories. The foundation or base of this outline, is a hollow horse-shoe concavity, like that of a Greek Theatre, but infinitely larger, in the middle of which is a gentle elevation. In short take the capital letter S and join on to it at the lower curve, a capital C with the arch upper-



most, or make a serpentine line and join to it at the bottom a convex semicircle; Windcliff will then be at the top of the letter S, or line, and Tintern Abbey in the middle of C, or the semicircle.

The taste displayed in the situation of the Abbey is conspicuous, for it would have been buried, had the area been flat, by the immense height of the surrounding sylvan amphitheatre, and its parts would have appeared diminutive; but, as it is, nature and art assist each other. The fore-ground is not naturally poor, and is further gloriously enriched by the ruin. The river, after skirting the Abbey sideways, turns short to the right, and from hence commences a new character of Wye Scenery : the leading feature is precipice, in all its massy grandeur, relieved in places, but partially by wood. The height is tremendous; the acclivities often such as not to be stood upon; occasionally undermined by the river, which thus runs under an arch, and the outlines, ridges intercepting each other, or lapping over. The winding water-course makes promontories of the shore, first on one side, then on the other. Soon after leaving the abbey, the long line of Bannagor Crag forms a perpendicular rampart on the left, wholly bare, except where a few shrubs spring from the crevices, or fringe their summits; on the opposite side, the river is skirted by narrow slips of rich

pasture, rising into wooded acclivities, on which towers the Windcliff, a perpendicular mass of rock overhung with thickets. The river base of Windcliff is at a house called Nevett's. The ground rises in steps. On the edge of the water are narrow slips of pasture in a convex form, winding round a steep bank of rock and thicket. Above this is a flat plateau of table-ground divided into fields with a good house in the centre. Behind rises Windcliff, a Giant with a hairy skin of wood, and a head with enormous teeth of rock, accompanied with other hilly Polyphemuses of inferior terror of character. This is the first of three peninsulas, and the scenery as viewed from Tiddenham Chase, is so wild and grand as to defy verbal description. It corrects the base of Windcliff, terraced and formal, but pleasingly unusual. From the boat the scene cannot equally be embraced in all its great features.

This wild spot terminates at Windcliff, which forms one extremity of the Piersfield amphitheatre. Fancy without vision cannot convey correct portraits of the most common objects of nature: and it is therefore better to say, that the bay of Piersfield presents a *panorama* of rock scenery and deep abyss; not simply grand, but dreadfully sublime; and that not by mere naked cliffs, as the Bullers of Buchan, but cloathed precipices of savage grandeur, like the terrific gorgeousness of the Indian warrior.

The particulars concerning Windcliff, Piersfield and Chepstow, which do not imply vision from the water, will be given in the next stage. It is therefore here sufficient to say, that the form of the double Bay from the promontory of Windcliff to that of Chepstow, is that of the letter B lengthways, with rude and jagged outlines: the straiter part being the rocks edging Tiddenham Chase, and the crooked side the ridge of Piersfield grounds, the walks of which are shelves, cut, except in one or two parts, round the upper rim of the precipice. This last is exceedingly high and steep, and hung with wood. The river winds closely under it, and at low water is a mere wide muddy ditch.

After doubling Windcliff, the boat enters an abyss hemmed in by the heights of Piersfield, on the right shore, and of Tiddenham on the left. In the centre is the second peninsula of LANCAUT, partly flat, partly a slope from Tiddenham Chase. The river encircles on the left, a farm of good meadows, with a house upon it, called *Lancaut Cottage*. The church is also to be seen. On the right, are twelve curious projecting rocks, bearing the names of the Apostles and a thirteenth denominated St. Peter's Thumb. They resemble the bastions of a Castle, and return a surprizing reverberation of sound. Of the *Lover's Leap*, mention will be made hereafter.

The next and last reach brings the Tourist into Piersfield Bay, and sight of Chepstow Castle, which lines a projecting ridge of rock, that forms the third isthmus. It stands upon the highest part of an immense perpendicular-sided crag. "This majestic remain say the Travellers, is highly interesting. The ancient Gothic entrance partly in ruins; the irregular breaks and prominences in the form of the building, are in many parts overgrown with large clumps of Ivy, and variegated shrubs; sometimes beautifully clustered among the fragments of the Castle, and again falling down and enriching the white and awful cliff below."\* Thus they.

The grand feature of the view beyond that of other castles, is the commanding elevation of the mutilated keep, which assumes a very picturesque attitude, and gives a sublimity to the whole, that otherwise would look like a mere Town-wall, i. e. be too low, and in the ruined parts heapish.

The new iron bridge is elegant, light and airy, but introduces an inharmonious formality into the general scene. The old bridge of carpentry, on the Roman model, was a real curiosity; being a bridge mounted like a School-boy on stilts, in the attitude of going to walk.† Tiddenham rocks and Tutshill slope, on the left, are in fine accordance, as well as the fore-ground of crags.

\* Nicholson, col. 1360. † A good view of it is given by Kip, in Sir R. Atkyns's Gloucestershire.

## STAGE SIXTH.

*Chepstow to Windcliff.*

FIRST, CHEPSTOW CASTLE, CHURCH, &c.—

SECOND, PIERSFIELD—THIRD, WINDCLIFF.

**C**HEPSTOW. Archdeacon Coxe says, that “he had seldom visited any town, whose picturesque situation surpasses that of Chepstow,” and Mr. Wyndham asserts that “the beauties are so uncommonly excellent, that the most exact critic in landscape, would scarcely wish to alter a position in the assemblage of woods, cliffs, ruins and water.”

The first object is the castle, lining the whole length of a projecting rock, and a very fine remain. Chepstow merely signifies market-place; but under the name of Estbrighoel or Striguil, the castle is mentioned in Domesday book; and is said to have been built by William Fitzosborn, Earl of Hereford, killed in 1070, who erected it out of the ruins of the adjacent Caerwent, or *Venta Silurum*. Grose affirms it to have been the work of some of the Earls of Pembroke. The remains show, (as will soon appear) that the old castle was nearly all taken

down, and rebuilt in the 13th century.\* The Duke of Beaufort holds it by descent from the Herberts.

Castles were built according to the form of the ground, that of Caerlaverock, being a triangle; and Chepstow castle, is a parellogram, upon a tongue of land, consisting of successive courts or baileys; flanked on the land side by an immense ditch, and the town walls; on the other side by the Wye.

The entrance is by a gateway with round towers, between them a machicollation. The former were considered necessary, like arms for the human body, to protect the entrance: and the latter was used for throwing down stones and torches upon the enemy, and water, if he should attempt to burn the Gates.† These last remain, and consist of planks, covered with iron plates, laid upon a strong lattice, and fastened by iron bolts. It was usual to case gates with iron or leather against fire.‡

Within one door is the original wicket, about three feet high, and only eighteen inches broad; and is cut out so as to leave a very high step. It is even smaller than a coach door. Grooves for a

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\* The Castle is mentioned in Collins's Peerage, ii. 30. vii. 466. Ed. 1761.

† Alberti de re edificat. 4to.

Par. 1512. fol. lv. a.

‡ Id. lv. b.

portcullis, and two large round funnels, appear in the arch, for pouring down melted lead and boiling water. On the left of the gate runs a wall, with a round tower and square stair-case turret at the corner. The whole aspect is feudally grand.

From this you enter the *second* court, as it is called, consisting entirely of the ancient offices and apartments of the modern keeper. On the right hand is *what is called* the hall, and kitchen; which have windows of the style of the 13th century, and stairs lead from it into the hall. It is a small room, a servants', not a castle hall. There was a cistern for rain water, and the pipe ran through the wall.

All this court was, in this, and most other castles of the æra, expressly devoted to the servants and garrison. Whoever has read the denominations and number of apartments, in ancient castles,\* will also know, that antiquaries themselves cannot elucidate them all, much less ignorant *Cicerones*.

There are said to have been sixteen towers. A line of communication, i. e. a terraced walk, at least now, runs inside the outer wall, along the whole building, ascending by steps from tower to tower. In the old Norman keep, this gallery used, in like manner, to run under arches, round the

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\* See Leland's *Collectanea*, ii, 658.

whole inside. This being a 13th century castle, where the defence consisted of numerous towers, not one only, the line of communication was altered accordingly. Passing by the vain attempt to identify shells of apartments, not now to be appropriated, it is fit to proceed to the principal building, now called *the chapel*, but, in fact, the site of the first castle, and composed of part of it.

At Hedingham, in Essex, a Norman keep remains in high perfection.\* Within the building are numerous arches, in stories over each other, with passages in the wall all round, and across the middle is one immense round arch, apparently to strengthen the roof, upon which, men and engines were placed. A curtain or partition thus divided the apartment into two. Now at Chepstow, upon one side of the chapel, we see half this immense arch walled up, showing, that the old fabric was much higher than the present; and outside the same wall are Roman bricks.

This then was a part of the old Norman castle, worked into a new building of the 13th century, and was only the middle of the old keep: for Saxon keeps, being on the very outward wall of the castle area,† the ancient building stood upon the edge of the rock over the Wye. A range of niches is seen within, ascribed to statues of the

\* Engraved in Britton's *Architectural Antiquities*, v. iii. p. 27, 28.

† King's *Munimenta Antiq.* ii. 29.



twelve Apostles, but usual in Norman keeps, and called by presumption, seats for the guard, or attendants.—In castles, the chapel was, commonly not the most striking edifice; and as this beautiful remain has apartments above, there is every reason to think, (according to the author's opinion founded upon inspection) that the lower part was not a chapel, but the grand hall, of which a beautiful window, towards the Wye, was the oriel window.

In double or treble castles of the latter styles, the grand hall, as at Raglan, frequently formed the centre. The upper apartments were for visitors. The oriel window is beautiful, in the manifest style of the 13th century, having slender shafts of columns and rich capitals of foliage. It was rendered impervious to missile weapons by a terrace and wall, upon the very edge of the cliff, as at Goodrich.

In some accounts of the castle,\* it is said, not by natives of our sister island, but certainly some of the Bull family, that *there is no trace of a fire place in the whole building, but that twenty-four chimneys remain*, one of which is handsomely decorated on the outside, and glazed within to prevent the accumulation of soot. Now in one of the towers, *which has a fire place* of the flat arch of the last Gothic æra, was imprisoned Henry Martin, a

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\* Nicholson, col. 364, 305.

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Regicide, who signed the warrant for the murder of Charles I. but being too contemptible to be dangerous, his life was spared upon condition of perpetual confinement, or rather surveillance.

Chalmers says, that he was "only a parliamentary buffoon,"\* and though party principles may explain the cause of the hospitality and friendship, which he found in this vicinity, it is certainly in bad taste to collect materials for his history. A Fool who sets up for a Rogue, only gets duped himself: and if he be a Fanatick also in any point, he is useful for others, who employ him, in order that in the event of ill success, he may suffer instead of themselves.†

Upon the view of the architecture of this castle, there is every reason to think, that it was rebuilt by Roger Bigod, about the same time with Tintern Abbey church. It underwent some partial alterations, in the end of the 15th century, probably by William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was deeply engaged in the wars of York and Lancaster.

Subterraneous passages were, says Alberti, to be annexed to Castles, for the purpose of sending

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\* Biograph. Diction. xviii. 502. † Only six of the Regicides suffered. The most cruel circumstance in the trial of them was, that several of the popular party sate as their judges, and doomed them to die, for that rebellion, to which they had incited them. Memoirs of James II. 154.

out messengers;\* and Mr. Barber was here shown an under ground room, with a groined roof, excavated in the rock, and opening to the overhanging brow of the cliff.†

The town was very strongly walled, and the remains are considerable.

Here was a cell of the foreign abbey of Cormeilles as early as the reign of Stephen.‡ On the north side of the Chapel of this Priory, are Roman bricks.§ As to the ruins of it,

“The present parish Church, say the Travellers|| includes most of its remains, which form a curious specimen of early architecture. A Tower stood at the eastern end of the present building, which fell down. At the angles on the outside are several ancient clustered columns, which have supported one of the arches. Beyond this the choir extended. The entrance was by a semicircular arched door-way, ornamented with crenated, billeted, and other mouldings, resting on five short receding columns upon a side without pedestals, with simple uniform capitals. A similar decorated arch of smaller dimensions, springing from two collateral

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\* Alberti, fol. lxxv. That plagiarism may not be suspected, it is to be observed, that the quotations from Alberti, with many other interesting extracts concerning Castles were used by the Author in his review of Bayley's Tower of London—Gents. Magazine, 1821

† Nicholson, col. 367. ‡ Tanner's Notitia. § Gough's Camden. || Id. 368.

columns, is on each side the door-way ; but is half obscured and disfigured by an external porch of which a view is given by Mr Cox.\* The present nave seems to have been considerably larger. It is separated from the aisles by ranges of circular arches, resting upon massive piers. On the S. side of the Chancel, under a canopied monument, supported by eight Corinthian pillars, is a whole length figure of Henry, second Earl of Worcester."† Near Piersfield Lodge, are some remains of the Priory of St. Kynemark ; near the Beaufort Arms, some ancient arched door-ways ; under Fydell's long room, a vaulted cellar ; and in Bridge-street, relicks of two ancient religious edifices ; one the chapel of St. Ann, used as a bark-house : the other adjoining Powis's Alms-house. The old Gate has a rugged aspect, which may be denominated the "Pock-fretted Gothick" an appearance owing to the physical quality of the stone.

Upon the Gloucestershire shore of the Wye, lies Tiddenham. Here are intrenchments, probably Roman, and afterwards occupied by others. A chapel, dedicated to St. TECLA, appears in ruins. Her Legend says, that she was a Virgin and Martyr, who after her conversion by St. Paul, suffered under Nero at Iconium. But Jerom gives

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\* Tour p. 364. † Engr. in Sandford's genealogical History,

her a higher character. There was (he says) a very noble Roman lady, daughter of Marcellinus, a man of consular rank, and named Melania. She made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and from her shining virtues, received the name of *Tecla*." (from the Greek *Kalos*.)\* Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, were so common among the Britons, that there is reason to think, this chapel marks the spot from whence they embarked. In this parish commences OFFA'S DIKE, or boundary between Wales and Mercia, which terminates at or near Flint.

The retrospective view on the road to BEACHLEY and the Old Passage House is rich; and that by the shore extensive, presenting the Forest of Dean, and country down to Robin-hood Hill, over Gloucester. Aust Cliff opposite is very grand.

#### PIERSFIELD.

The road to this celebrated spot, is that of the Turnpike to Monmouth. Near the remains of St. Kynmark's Priory, not far from Piersfield Lodge, are foundations of an old Chapel, which stood at the west end of a field called Upper Dean.

If the Tourist goes to these ruins along the Shire Newton road, and through the fields at the

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\* *Usserji Antiquitates*, p. 110.

back of a house called the Mount, he will enjoy a highly gratifying view of Chepstow and its environs.—The entrance to Piersfield is, by a superb Lodge, through usual, but fine park scenery. From hence a winding road leads on the left to the Seat, on the right to the extremity of the Walks, under Chepstow, whence the lounge begins.

Piersfield was long the property of the family of Walters; and in 1736 was sold to Col. Morris, of the Island of St. Vincent, father of VALENTINE MORRIS. In 1784 it was alienated to George Smith, Esq. of Burnhall, county Durham, and in 1794 to Sir Mark Wood, who completed the magnificent mansion, partly built by Mr. Smith. In 1803 it was sold to Nathaniel Wells, Esq. the present proprietor.\*

Reed describes the house eloquently. It is characterised he says more by an elegant simplicity, than by princely magnificence. It is built with a light free stone. The library and dancing room constitute its two wings. The stair-case is ornamented with four pictures of most exquisite Tapestry, the production of a French Nunnery,† and the other apartments are decorated with furniture, paintings, and statuary of the most costly and excellent kind. The style of the building is

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\* Nicholson, 1062. † Others make it of the Gobelin Manufacture, and once the property of Louis xvi. The subjects are taken from the Natural History of Africa.

uncommonly fine, possessing considerable elevation and it is surrounded with extensive grounds, here rising into gentle swells, and there as gently sloping into vallies. §

Piersfield, so far as depends upon art, was the creation of Valentine Morris, whom the author of this sketch, from having visited when a boy, knows to have been a man of very elegant manners. Engaging in the rash attempt of removing the Morgans of Tredegar from the representation of the county, and being otherwise expensive, he was obliged to retire from Piersfield. At his last departure, he divided money among the poor assembled in the church-yard, shook each by the hand, and was followed to the Passage, by a procession of carriages.—The bells rung a muffled peal. He wept; and why he invited such a severe trial of his feelings at all, would not be easy to account for, in a man, who did not like himself, overvalue popularity. As governor of St. Vincent's he got into scrapes, (the published accounts of which the author knows to be inaccurate; and does not correct, because they only prove common evils, into which men who are involved, plunge themselves,) and became a prisoner in the king's bench, where he continued many years. In short he was very amiable, hospitable and charitable, with the common errors of a man of fashion.

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§ Remains, p. 112

Gilpin wrote in Mr. Morris's time; and he commenced his walk at the Windcliff end, and Archdeacon Coxe at St. Arvan's just by it.

Mr. Gilpin says, "Mr. Morris's improvements at Piersfield, which we soon approached, are generally thought as much worth a traveller's notice as any thing on the banks of the Wye. We pushed on shore close under his rocks; and the tide being at ebb, we landed with some difficulty on an oozy beach. One of our bargemen, who knew the place, served as a guide; and under his conduct we climbed the steep, (apparently Wind-cliff,) by an easy, regular zig-zag."

"The eminence on which we stood (one of those grand eminences which overlook the Wye) is an intermixture of rock and wood, and forms in this place, a concave semicircle, sweeping round in a segment of two miles. The river winds under it; and the scenery, of course, is shewn in various directions. The river itself, indeed, as we just observed, is charged with the impurities of the soil it washes; and when it ebbs its verdant banks become slopes of mud: but if we except these disadvantages, the situation of Piersfield is noble."

"Little indeed was left for improvement, but to open walks and views through the woods to the various objects around them; to those chiefly of the eminence on which we stood. All this the in-



genious proprietor hath done with great judgment ; and hath shewn his rocks, his woods, and his precipices, under various forms, and to great advantage. Sometimes a broad face of rock is presented, stretching along a vast space, like the walls of a citadel. Sometimes it is broken by intervening trees. In other parts the rocks rise above the woods ; a little farther they sink below them : sometimes they are seen through them ; and sometimes one series of rocks appears rising above another : and though many of these objects are repeatedly seen, yet seen from different stations, and with new accompaniments, they appear new. The winding of the precipice is the magical secret by which all these enchanting scenes are produced."

" We cannot, however call these views picturesque.—They are either presented from too high a point, or they have little to mark them as characteristic : or they do not fall into such composition as would appear to advantage on canvass. But they are extremely romantic, and give a loose to the most pleasing riot of imagination."

" These views are chiefly shewn from different stands in a close walk carried along the brow of the precipice—It would be invidious perhaps to remark a degree of tediousness in this walk, and too much sameness in many of its parts, notwithstanding the general variety which enlivens them : but the

intention probably is not yet complete ; and many things are meant to be hid, which are now too profusely shewn.”\*

“ Having seen every thing on this side of the hill, we found we had seen only half the beauties of Piersfield, and pursued a walk which led us over the ridge of the eminence to the opposite side. Here the ground depositing its wild appearance, assumes a more civilized form. It consists of a great variety of lawns, intermixed with wood and rocks ; and, though it often rises and falls, yet it descends without any violence into the country beyond it.”

“ The views on this side are not the romantic steeps of the Wye ; but though of another species, they are equally grand. They are chiefly distances consisting of the vast waters of the Severn ; here an arm of the sea, bounded by a remote country ; of the mouth of the Wye entering the Severn ; and of the town of Chepstow, and its castle and abbey. Of all these distant objects an admirable use is made ; and they are shewn, (as the rocks of the Wye were on the other side,) sometimes in parts, and sometimes all together. In one station we had the scenery of both sides of the hill at once.”

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\* As it is many years since these remarks were made several alterations have probably, since that time taken place.

"It is a pity the ingenious embellisher of these scenes could not have been satisfied with the grand beauties of nature which he commanded. The Shrubberies he has introduced in this part of his improvements, I fear will rather be esteemed paltry. As the embellishments of a house, or as the ornament of little scenes which have nothing better to recommend them, a few flowering shrubs artfully composed may have their elegance and beauty: but in scenes like this, they are only splendid patches, which injure the grandeur and simplicity of the whole."

—Fortasse cupressum

Scis simulare: quid hoc?—

—Sit quidvis simplex duntaxat et unum.

"It is not the shrub which offends; it is the *formal introduction* of it. Wild underwood may be an appendage of the grandest scene; it is a beautiful appendage. A bed of violets or lilies may enamel the ground with propriety at the root of an oak; but if you introduce them artificially in a border, you introduce a trifling formality, and disgrace the noble object you wish to adorn." Thus Gilpin.

Archdeacon Coxe remarks: "that the walk is carried through a thick mantle of forests, with occasional openings, which seem not the result of art or design, but the effect of chance or nature. This bowery walk is consonant to the genius of

Piersfield; the screen of wood prevents the uniformity of a bird's eye view, and the imperceptible bend of the amphitheatre conveys the spectator from one part of this fairy region to another, without discovering the gradations. Hence the Wye is sometimes concealed or half-obsured by overhanging foliage; at others, wholly expanding in view, is seen sweeping beneath a broad and circuitous channel; hence at one place, the Severn spreads in the midst of a boundless expanse of country, and on the opposite side of the Wye; at another, both rivers appear on the same side; and *the Severn seems supported on the level summit of the Cliffs, which form the banks of the Wye.* Hence the same objects present themselves in different aspects, and with varied accompaniments; hence the magic transition from the impervious gloom of the forest to open groves; from meadows and lawns to rocks and precipices, and from the mild beauties of English Landscape, to the wildness of Alpine Scenery."

The Author commenced his walk as usual, at the Chepstow end, and was guided successively to the various points of view, thus denominated.

*First the ALCOVE.—Second the PLATFORM.*

The objects seen from hence would be alone amply sufficient for any other spot: but here they operated injuriously, in the eye of the Author, by

a bad anticipation. The Town and Castle are too near, for objects so large and bold, seen from an opposite level; not from below, or in bird's eye; but he begs not to be misunderstood. He only means, that here inferiority of view is injudiciously brought into notice, not that any thing is or can be bad at Piersfield.

*Third The GROTTO.*

Here a picture is presented in the happiest state of composition. In this charming view, a diversified plantation occupies the fore-ground, and descends through a grand hollow to the river, which passes in a long reach under the elevated ruins of Chepstow Castle, the Town, and Bridge, towards the Severn. Rocks and Precipices, dark shelving forests, groves, and lawns, hang on its course, and with a variety of sailing vessels, are reflected from the liquid mirror, with an effect, at which, says Barber, the magic pencil of Claude would falter. The distant Severn and its remote shores form an excellent termination and complete the picture.\*

*Fourth Above PIERS-WOOD.*

Between here and the Grotto, says Barber, there is something which one would wish added or removed.

*Fifth The DOUBLE VIEW.*

This is the most admired, and is so called because on one side you have a fine prospect across

the park on the land side into Monmouthshire, and on the other, over the Wye, Severn, and Gloucestershire. It is owing to a superior eminence of ground. The different scenes which have presented themselves in detail, here appear in one comprehensive range. The field of prospect is much more extensive and beautifully picturesque. The mazy Wye, with all its interesting accompaniments, passes from beneath us, through a richly variegated country, to its junction with the Severn, beyond which silvery expanse, the grand swelling shores of Somersetshire form the distance. A curious *deceptio visus* occurs here. It proceeds from a coincidence in the angle of vision, between the opposite rocks, and a part of the Severn, which appears to wash their summit, although it is many miles distant.

*Sixth The HALF-WAY SEAT, under a large Beech Tree.*

*Seventh The GIANT'S CAVE,*

Is a passage cut through a rock. Over one of the entrances is a mutilated colossal figure, which once sustained the fragment of a rock in his uplifted arms, threatening to overwhelm him who dared to enter his retreat; but some time since, the stone fell, carrying the giant's arms along with it; and it would have been as well if it had taken off the rest of the figure. To place it there at all was *mauvais gout*, mere *concetto*, a tiny

idea unworthy Piersfield, and exactly the converse of the excellent taste, which has preserved unclipped the aged laurel of wondrously grand effect. From the Giant's Cave a path traced under the wood, descends to the Bath, a commodious building, concealed from outward view by impending foliage.

*Eighth a Seat near two Beeches, on the edge of the Precipice.*

*Ninth The LOVER'S LEAP,*

So named from the Leucadian promontory, whence despairing lovers, and among them Sappho, precipitated themselves. It is the edge of a perpendicular cliff, overlooking a tremendous abyss, clothed with underwood, which at the bottom looks as fine as a spider's web, and is enveloped in mist.\*

A taste for scenery is of the first moment, as to the civilization, wealth, and glory of any country; and every respect is due to Morris the author, and the succeeding liberal proprietors of Piersfield, who gratify the public with a view of its exquisite natural glories; but nothing human is without imperfection. It is no fault of any one, because

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\* Early this year (1822) owing to the previous rainy season, about three acres of that part of the Martridge Wood, which lies between the Lover's Leap and the Cold Bath, have slid down towards the river, carrying with them some fir trees, the underwood, and some rocks. Gents. Magazine, March 1822. p. 267.

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the ground is extensive, that the walk is too long, and should have been a ride; and also that it should perhaps have commenced at the Grotto, and without dispute, have terminated at Windcliff, decorated in the manner hereafter mentioned. Perhaps also the views are too numerous, and thus forestall each other, to little purpose, merely for the sake of rocks opposite, which are stiff and marine, formal and bare; and for the range over *Lancut*, in itself only a common-place farm. The Author in his peregrination was not *strongly impressed* at any seats, but those of the Grotto, and Double View, neither of which are anticipated. Piersfield is a grand sublime whole; but included in one *coup d'œil*, through the elevation of the spectator, and there is little or no variety of scene in succession on the opposite bank, which almost wholly consists of similar rocks, whose identity is not broken by woody, or other interventions; and after all, as to the chief view, no spot can possibly equal Windcliff. Let those Tourists therefore, who are bad trampers, content themselves, with the Grotto, and Double View, but a short walk from each other. To Windcliff, they can ride.

#### WINDCLIFF.

What a Cathedral is among Churches, Windcliff is among Prospects: and if, like Snowdon, it ought to be visited at sun-rise, or be seen through a



sun-rise glass;\* should not the sentiments felt from the view, be similar to those of the following grand apostrophé: for what is admiration of scenery without homage to the Omnipotent, but the cold approbation of the Mechanic, who thinks professionally, and is void of sentiment?

Upon Windcliff the scene described may be enjoyed in high perfection. "The morning sun rose bright and clear from the distant ocean. A gorgeous crimson glowed on the eastern sky, deepening towards the horizon, and blending its gradually pale hue with the light azure of the mid-heaven. Spiry points of deep red studded the undulating clouds, scintillating like Meteors aptly picturing the first flashes of fiery light, which flamed at the command of the most High, from the gloomy bosom of Chaos. All nature blushed in that orient light. It imbibed the hue descending from the Heaven of Heavens. The water sparkled, as it received the first kiss of the rosy morn: it was the eye of a lover kindling beneath the glance of his beloved. The trees waved in the early breeze; it was the salutation of a friend greeting with kindly welcome the return of some dear one. Awakened to the conviction and the

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\* The Author uses and recommends a well-known small yellow pocket glass, called a *Claude*, which gives a sun-rise view at full-day, without the obscuration of the morning mist.

enjoyment of a new existence, the whole pulse of animated creation, throbbed rapturously. It was the preeminent sensation of invigorated intellect.. It was the winning of another day from death. *Reclining on the summit of an eminence*, he felt how multitudinous was the society of that unpeopled solitude. He enjoyed the communion which he held with the universe. He loved to cope with nature; to hold intercourse with the ancient mother of an infinitely numerous offspring; to collect from her more truths, than tradition ever treasured, than record ever presented to the view of man. He marked the gradual progress of light; and he recalled the education which had been bestowed on the human race, a preparation for their reception of the revelation of the divine will. Every thing breathed instruction; the world teemed with evidences of the truth of God. If ever eternity and infinitude were within the grasp of the comprehension of man, it was in such a scene.\* Similar scenes are described with equal felicity by Lord Byron, but there is such a mixture of Devil and Angel in his sentiments, that a feeling of pain accompanies the perusal. The heart is conscious, that such cannot be the homage due to the Creator.

Windcliff is the last grand scene of the Piersfield sublime Drama, and should have been in-

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\* The Priest [an excellent Novel] i. p. 186. seq.

cluded in the grounds. If an opinion *must be* given concerning the hack question, "which is the grandest scene on the Wye" the answer *must be*, "the Prospect from Windcliff." It is not only magnificent, but it is so novel, that it excites an involuntary start of astonishment, and so sublime that it elevates the mind into instantaneous rapture. Its parts consist in a most uncommon combination of wood, rock, water, sky, and plain; of height, and abyss, of rough and smooth, of recess and projection, of fine landscape anear, and exquisite perspective afar, all melting into each other, and grouping in such capricious lines, that although it may find a counterpart in the tropical climes, it is, as to England, probably unique. It is unlikely that the mouths of two rivers should be so adjacent or so arranged as to form a similar scene, though a thousand views of sea, vale, and rock, may be of corresponding character, with only slight differences of surface. But the ground here is singular; and the features not being English, the physiognomy is of course, such as cannot be expected elsewhere. It also improves both upon our natural and foreign landscape; upon the former, because our scenery is not so fine as the foreign, which Windcliff resembles: upon the latter, because according to the observation of Humboldt, it has not that, "something strange and sad, which accompanies aspects of animated nature, in which man is nothing."

The spectator stands upon the edge of a precipice, the depth of which is most awful, and the river winds at his feet. The right side-screen is Piersfield ridge, richly wooded; the left, is a belt of rocks, over which appear the Severn, and the fine shores between Thornbury and Bristol, rising behind each other in admirable swells, which unite in most graceful curves. The first foreground is to the eye, a view from the clouds upon earth, and the rich contrast of green meadows to wild forest scenery; the farm of Lancaut, clasped in the arms of the winding river, backed by hanging wood and rock. Thus there is a bay of verdure, walled in by nature's colossal fences, wood, hill, and rock. The further horn of the crescent, tapers off into a craggy informal mole, over which the eye passes to the second Bay. This terminates in Chepstow Castle, the town, and rocks beyond, all mellowed down, by distance into that fine hazy indistinctness, which makes even deformities combine in harmony with the picture. In the middle distance, the widening sea spreads itself, and from it the shores of Somerset and Monmouth shires steal away into the horizon. Lastly, all this union of large and bold objects, from being comprized within a circumference of a very few miles, unites the Landscape and the Prospect, together with the Forest and the Park character of unimpeded expanse, for the enclosures are few in any part, and by distance are almost

diminished into imperceptible streaks. Thus the reproach of mappishness, does not attach to this exalted exhibition of the divine taste.

“ There is, says Reed, an eminence called WINDCLIFF, which I had frequently heard of, and was very anxious to visit. I found my way thither through a plantation of firs, that crowns the summit, at the end of which a landscape of such transcendant beauty and magnificence opened before me, as cast a sort of shade on every former scene within my observation. I felt as if I had been conducted to the spot by the hand of some invisible agent, to contemplate the regions of enchantment, or the garden of Elysium! It embraces a thousand picturesque objects; yet as a whole it is not picturesque, but possesses something of a superior kind, that cannot be easily described. The man of taste would even gaze upon it with rapture and astonishment; but he would never think for a moment of sketching its likeness on canvas; he knows that his labours would be in vain. The scene is of too variegated, too immense, and too resplendent a character, to receive any just delineation from either the pencil of the painter, or the inspiration of the poet.”

But might not the proprietor of this imperial domain have built a Temple on Windcliff, consecrating it to the Genius of the place? He might have done so, but in forbearing the attempt he has

done better. The precipice itself is a temple, which the "worshippers of nature" will always approach with "unsandaled foot" considering the embellishments of Art, as a profanation of her sacred grandeur.

Other writers, upon reaching Windcliff, clap their wings and crow away in similar exultation.

That Windcliff is degraded by being a mere nursery of paltry firs, which the power of the wind at such an elevation will spoil, and would gain nothing by a summer-house baby temple, is manifest. But a few high and massy Doric Columns with Architraves, however rude, would have the grand effect of the ruins of the Temple of Minerva upon the Sunian Promontory; and as the pillars would not require fluting, and materials are adjacent, the expence might be moderate. A portion of the Visitor's contributions for seeing the grounds, might soon repay the cost, with a permanent rent afterwards. The mimick ruin might be set off by partial immersion in wood, and roomy niches might be hollowed out in the rock, at points of view, and be properly railed round, to prevent danger. The finest of these might contain a tablet, inscribed in the simple taste of the Greek Epitaph.

VALENTINE MORRIS,

*Introduced these sublime Scenes*

TO PUBLIC NOTICE.

TO HIM BE HONOUR, TO GOD PRAISE.

## LAND TOUR.

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**W**HOWER has read the Scotch Novels, will recollect the Cake Shop on the Lakes, so much frequented by Poets and Artists; and the hearty execration of them by a neighbouring Gentleman, because they might possibly convey love-letters to a handsome girl under his guardianship. Clever fellows are however entitled to regard as well as rich ones; and, during summer and autumn, they poke about the Wye, like snipes and woodcocks, and after rummaging every thing, reemigrate to London. For the use of them, and others who travel singly, and therefore will not incur the expence of a boat, the following route and observations are given; but the pure orthodox Scenist will recollect that such a tour is not the epicure's meal; for the spectator on either bank, loses the effect of that side on which he stands, through not being in the middle of the stream; and being more elevated, sees what he does behold, not to its full advantage.

A sturdy pedestrian will of course follow the banks of the river down to Tintern Abbey, and

thence diverge to Windcliff and Chepstow, as, upon the whole, if he be pressed for time, the best substitute for the Aquatic Excursion. But Ponyists and other Horsemen, will not be able to adopt the same plan, and therefore may pursue another route, which will partially repay them for their loss of the continuous Tour, by various fine prospects, and some curious antiquities.

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#### FIRST TOUR.

### Ross to Monmouth.

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Pass Wilton Bridge, and proceed to Pencraig. It is placed at a sudden turn of the river, in order to catch a fine view of Ross, mellowed by distance. This is in excellent taste; for roofs of houses and unequal heights of buildings are mere portraits of uninteresting objects, and scarcely distinguish one town from another. By distance you sink the disagreeable, bring in the adjacent country, mask the town with a pleasing haze, and convert the whole to a landscape, in which, if the view be taken from a right spot, the leading characteristic



immediately designates the particular town, in discrimination from others.

In other respects the landscape is uncommonly fine. It presents from an eminence, the river meandering along the vale, the enchanting windings of which are dignified by the stately appearance of Goodrich Castle on the right. The variety and extent of hill, vale, wood, and water, which compose this view, baffle description. Here the Tourist should descend to the towing-path, in order to catch the fine view of the castle, described in the water tour. After exploring that august ruin, he may proceed to Huntsholm Ferry, and crossing the river, go from thence to Symond's Yat, where he will, at the same time, view Coldwell rocks, and the New Weir. His route from thence is along the ridge above High-meadow Woods, to Staunton and the Buckstone. From thence he will have a most superb bird's eye view of the river and its accompaniments, from the New Weir to Newland. From the Buckstone the road runs to the Kymin, and so to Monmouth. This whole tour, including a return to Ross, is a journey of from twenty to thirty miles.

Those, whose time will permit, may visit Coppet Wood Hill, the summit of the Little Doward, whence Monmouth bridge, and the river

appear in fine effect, Round-tree-field, Penyard Castle, &c. which command the Malvern Hills, upon the North Eastern side of the country, and the rocky ridges about and beyond Cheltenham.

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SECOND TOUR.

**Monmouth to Chepstow.**

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The line by turnpike is to Tintern Abbey direct. Upon Lydett Hill above Monmouth, is a most sublime prospect, before mentioned, of the Town and vale. At Trelleck are to be seen the antiquities mentioned in another place. From thence the road turns short to the left, and after crossing Trelleck Common, (a dose of physic to the lover of the picturesque, from its miserable dullness) it enters a rich descent, a fine prologue to the Tintern Scenery in front, where the road terminates at the distance of nine and a half miles from Monmouth.—From Tintern to Windcliff, two miles; and from thence through St. Arvan's to Chepstow, about three more.

It is plain, that this Tour by turnpike, loses too much, viz. several miles of the river line be-

tween Monmouth and Tintern. As the banks however are in the greatest perfection on the Monmouthshire side, it may be recommended to return by the Gloucestershire road, from Chepstow to Coleford. The Turnpike on Tiddenham Chase commands Piersfield down to Nevett's, below which it turns to the right, and forsakes the river. From thence therefore it will be advisable by means of a Guide, to pursue the best bye road possible to be obtained, for a sight of Llandogo and the western banks, through the villages of Hewelsfield and St. Briavels to Newland, just by Monmouth.—The Tourist may however, at first start, chuse to avoid the Turnpike to Tintern, and take the bye roads from Penalt, and the other villages; but the best mode of making either of the excursions mentioned must be learned at Monmouth or Chepstow, for the Author has never travelled in such directions.

Every elevated spot near the banks of the Wye, must from the nature of the ground, furnish either a Landscape or a Prospect, and enumeration would be endless.

A Gentleman, travelling from Tintern to Llandogo (four miles) wandered along the unsheltered brow of Cabbaddic mountains, and while gazing at the village of *Brookweir*, on the opposite bank of the Wye, found himself surrounded on all sides by a thick wood. The path hence, taking a winding

course, down an uneven bank, led him from the wood to the scattered cottages, which form the hamlet of Llandogo. He then directed his steps towards Monmouth, by quitting for awhile the banks of the Wye. Leaving the beaten track, he ascended the craggy brow of a steep mountain; whence he beheld an extensive tract of country, with the Wye meandering beneath, through rich meadows and corn fields. The steepness of the precipice amazed and terrified him. Advancing a few paces, he looked over a tremendous chasm, overhung by trunks of trees, while water rushing over the rocks below, added much to the horror of the place.\*

Desultory rambles, like these, may furnish very interesting subjects for the pencil; and the Author has seen an elegant girl, seated, with her legs hanging over a precipice, as deeply absorbed in sketching, as she would be in letter-writing to or about her intended. He has also seen women stand fearlessly upon the brow of Windcliff. These are strong proofs of the effect of scenery, which can overcome the sensitive irritability of female timidity.

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\* Nicholson, col. 1298.



PART SECOND.

Historical Department.

*Banks of the Wye,*

AFTER the final conquest of the Silures by the Romans, the Country on the banks of the *Wye*,\* formed part of the province of *Britannia Secunda*, under the government of a President, residing at Caerleon. When the Britons resumed their independence in the time of Honorius and Constantius, a king, named *Caradock*, reigned in these parts,† and other Commanders of the same common name, fought with Offa and Harold.§ These facts lead to some inferences, concerning a Mansion still called *Cradock*, about two miles from Perry-

\* The river *Wye*, is a Pleonasm, *Wye* meaning in Welch, *river*, and oddly enough, in English *Wine*. Higden translates the lines XV. Scriptor. 188.

*Vinum putant precipuum,  
Quanto sit magis rubeum.*

by

" Ever the redder is the *Wye*,  
They holde it the more fye."

See Dibdin's *Typograph. Antiq.* i. 147. *Wye* might be supposed an error of the press, for *wyne*, were there not a capital letter, and the rhyme fye.

† Turner's *Anglo Saxons*, p. 133. 136. § Nicholson 455. 1106. *Script. p. Bed.* 256.

L. 3.

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stone, from which it is separated by the Wye. Legendary accounts have assigned it to one of the Knights of Arthur's Round Table, called "*Cradock Vreich Vras*," which signifies the fat arm. He is said to have been a Prince between Wye and Severn, who married a daughter of Pallinor, Prince of South Wales, a Lady whose chastity was proved by trying on a curious mantle, which shrunk up if the female was not virtuous. Tintern was certainly one Royal palace on the Wye. This Cradock may have been another. Palaces meant places of short residence, because the kings would not burden the neighbourhood, on account of their procurations, by a long stay,\* and King Caradock, might have resided here. But except foundations of rude stones, the Palaces of the British Kings, merely consisted of basket work, or wattled twigs, distinguished only from those† of their subjects by being barked. From the life of Dubricius, there appear to have been various petty Kings, in these districts.

However this be, notwithstanding the cultivated lands and open country adjacent to the stations, the romantic banks of the Wye, soon after the departure of the Romans, formed in the greater part, a wilderness occupied by Hermits and other Solitaries. Dubricius established a grand college

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\* Ducange Gloss. v. *Palatium*. † So that of Howell Dha, and confirmed by William of Malmesbury. See Sammes p. 213.

between Ross and Hereford; and in his time, Samson, an eminent prelate, placed some other religious, in a desert near the severn, (doubtless, the Forest of Dean) and long resided himself in a certain very secret cave in the interior.\* At Tintern, a retired Monarch, lived in holy seclusion|| and the parochial appellations, St. Briavel, (St. Breulais) St. Weonards, as well as the prefix of *Llan* to *Llandogo*, and *Llancaut*, allude to the same æra and state of things: a state naturally growing out of the perturbed state of society at the dissolution of the Roman Empire, when pacific existence could be obtained or secured only by seclusion.

In the year 597, Ceolwulf began to reign over the West Saxons, and being during life, engaged in warfare, attacked the Britons at Tintern, but was defeated. On or about this time, the large and powerful kingdom of Mercia was formed; and in the year 738, Ethelbald King of that extensive portion of the Heptarchy, in order to annex the pleasant region between the Severn and the Wye, to his territories, entered Wales with a powerful army. At Carno, a mountain in Monmouthshire, the Britons checked his progress, and drove him over the Wye with great loss. In 743 he marched in conjunction with Cuthred, who had succeeded

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\* Usserii Antiquitat. Brit, Eccles. p. 277. || See Tintern hereafter.

Æthelheard in Wessex, another army against the Britons. Through great superiority of force they obtained a decisive victory at Ddefawdon, [between *Trelleck* and *Chepstow*] but only retired with plunder. To Ethelbald succeeded Offa. His wars with the Britons were at first to his disadvantage. Some branches of the [Cymry] Welch, penetrated by an incursion into Mercia. Their united attack drove the English from the Severn. They frequently repeated their devastations. Offa collected in greater number, the forces of the Anglo Saxons, and marched into Wales. The Britons unable to withstand him, quitted the open country between the Severn and the Wye, and withdrew to their mountains. Impregnable among these natural fortresses, they awaited the return of the invaders, and then sallied out in new aggressions. To terminate these wasteful incursions, Offa annexed the eastern regions of Wales, as far as the Wye to Mercia, planted them with Anglo Saxons, and separated them from the Britons by a high vallum between two ditches,\* named from him *Claudh Offa*, or *Offa's Dyke*, though not a foss. It extended from the Æstuary of the Dee, to the mouth of the Wye; and the occupation of the eastern banks by the Colonists of Offa, is attested according to Lluyd, by the names of places terminating

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\* Gough's Camden, ii. 467. Part of it forms the turnpike road between Ruabon and Wrexham.



in *ton* or *ham*.<sup>\*</sup> Watt's Dyke runs nearly in a direction with Offa's, but at unequal distances, from 5, or 600 yards to three miles.<sup>†</sup> The space between the two was considered as neutral ground, where the Britons and Saxons might meet for commercial purposes, but notwithstanding the severe law of Egbert, which announced death to every Welchman, who passed the rampart, and of Harold Harefoot, who softened the punishment to amputation of the right hand, the descendants of the Silures, with the contumacious spirit of their ancestors, frequently, upon the Celtic principle of Black-mail, crossed the line in the night, to drive the cattle over the boundary.<sup>‡</sup> In prevention of these ravages, Mr. Pennant observes, that there are numerous artificial mounts, the site of small forts, in many places along its course.

In this Anglo Saxon æra the Wye, at Chepstow, separated Wales from England, § on the south; and it was made beyond Hereford, by Athelstan, the boundary of the North Welch. || Harold, by his massacres, so depopulated the country, that says Giraldus Cambrensis, ¶ he scarcely left a male alive; a cruel policy before practised by Offa, who spared females only, that future aggression might be suppressed, at least enfeebled. Through

\* Turner's Anglo Saxons, i. 408, 421, 422. † Both these Dykes are accurately delineated in Evans's Map of N. Wales and Smith's two sheet Map. ‡ Nicholson, 383, 455. § xv Scriptores, 194. || W. Malmesb. Scriptor. p. Bed. fol. 28. ¶ Angl. Sacr. ii. 451.

this measure of Harold, the three first Norman Kings were undisturbed; and the country was easily held in subjugation, by granting parcels of it to various military adventurers, who could acquire them by negociation or force. From this period, we must date the remains, at least in the greater part, of the Castles on the Wye.

The first of these is WILTON. Anglo Saxon forts were chiefly mounts; but though it is not improbable, that the ferry here had some protection, it appears, that the present Castle was built by King Stephen, in 1141,\* and it is mentioned together with Chepstow and Godrich, by Giraldus Cambrensis. Henry de Longo Campo, or Long Champ, held it 12. Henry ii. a. 1165,† and Maud daughter and heir of Henry, carried it in marriage to Reginald Grey,‡ ancestor of the Lords Grey de Wilton, in which family it remained till the 16th century. William Lord Grey de Wilton had been taken prisoner in defending Calais, and having long solicited in vain to be redeemed at the public charge, which he well deserved, was at last obliged to sell most of his estates for that purpose. Accordingly in 1576, Lord Gilbert Talbot, then resident at Godrich Castle, offered for Wilton, and its annexations £6000, that as he writes to his father, “besyde

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\* Leland's Collect. iii. 305. † Hearne's Lib. Nig. i. 159. ‡ Collin's tit. Grey. Ed. 1756.

the benefyte therof, he myghte be able to attende on his Lordshipe with a thousande tall fellowes, to follow his Lordshipe's directions, if he sholde have neede to comaunde him."\* He writes most importunately, but it does not appear that he succeeded, for Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Grey de Wilton (which Elizabeth died Dec. 29, 1559) was wife of Lord Chandos,† whose second son Charles, resided here, as well as his posterity, down to James the magnificent Duke, who built Cannons. In consequence of some political disappointments, with regard to local influence, the estate was sold from pique, to the Governors of Guy's Hospital.‡

The S. W. Tower seems to have undergone little or no change, when the building was altered to its present form, which is in the style of Hurstmonceaux and other castellated mansions of the fifteenth century.

The following old story is told of the Lords of Wilton and Acornbury. They were cousins, and addressed the same lady: she preferred the Lord of Wilton; and his enraged rival assembled his vassals and fired this castle. A few years ago a burnt beam was shown in commemoration of this incident.§ —

The Bridge was built in the reign of Eliza-

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\* Private Communication. † Dugdale's St. Paul's, p. 79. Ed. Ellis. ‡ Heath, 56. § Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.

beth.\* During the Civil War, a party of the Rebels from Gloucester, Horse and Foot, arrived with two pieces of ordinance, at the Bridge, and found it guarded by Capt. Cassie, and thirty musketeers from Godridge Castle. A part of the Horse advanced upon the Guard, forced the River, and got beyond them; after some dispute beat them off, wounded and took the Captain, slew many of his men, and took the rest in the chase almost up to the Castle [of Godrich].†

Some short time after, Massie, the Governor of Gloucester, marching to the relief of Pembridge Castle, passed through Ross, but found the Bridge broken down, and the river made impassable, by the sinking of boats on the other side, and a guard of Horse to defend it. Here was a dispute for two days, and Massie's object failed.‡

The next object in progress is GODRICH CASTLE. The junctions of the courses in the masonry, show that the castle, before the addition of the round towers, merely consisted of the keep, with low annexed buildings in the house form; whose point ends or gables, distinctly appear, where walling has been raised upon them.

We find a Domesday Proprietor, of the name of Godric, as holding *Hulla*, § (a Hill,) whence

\* It is engraved with elevation, section, and ichnography. *Gent. Mag.* Aug. 1753, † Corbett's, *Military Government of Gloucester*, p. 86. ‡ *Id.* p. 118. § As quoted by Heath.

Howl in Walford, and there can be no doubt but the position and command of the ford, dictated the erection of a Fortress. After the conquest it descended to William Earl Marshall, doubtless in the same manner as Tintern, before described, for he was not grantee from John, as erroneously published, but held it in 1165, 12. Hen. II.\* The grant merely implied restoration. This William Earl Marshall, who died in 1219, had five sons, all issueless, and as many daughters, heirs to their brothers. Joan the second daughter was wife of Warin de Monte Canisio, [Montchensi] by whom she had issue, John S. P. and Joan, wife of William de Valence,† his sister and heir. Eliz. Comin coheir of Audomar de Valence, carried it, in marriage to Richard Talbot.‡ In the reign of Edward III. Richard Lord Talbot, made great repairs and improvements, of which, vestiges appear in the sharp-headed arch, without a curve, peculiar to that reign. Gilbert eldest brother of John, the famous Earl of Shrewsbury, who resided here much in the 15th century, was, by the style exhibited in the Chapel, apparently another improver. The Talbots had also a Castle at Penyard, and like all the Barons of the day, were of migratory habits, through occupying their own estates, but Richard probably made Godrich, his *standing house*, or

\* Hearne's, Lib. Nig. i. 160 † Chronic. Abb. Tintern, Dugd. Monast. i. 726. ‡ Fosbroke's Gloucestershire, i. 348.

chief dwelling. It was afterwards a seat for children, for in 1576 Lord Gilbert Talbot, son of the Earl of Shrewsbury, was resident here, with Mary his wife. This appears by a letter of which the following is an extract, here given, because it contains information concerning the state of the country. "According to my ryches and the cōtrey I dwell in and not to my desire, I send your L. a new yer's gyfte; a Monmouthe Cappe, and a rundlette of Perrye, and I muste require pardon to name the other homely thyng, a payre of Rosse Bootes, wich yf they be fytt for yo'r L. you may have as many as pleas you to appoynte."\* This Lord Gilbert was afterwards Earl, and dying May 8th, 1616, left Eliz. daughter and coheir, wife of Henry Grey, Earl of Kent, in which family it continued till upon the demise of the last Henry Duke of Kent, in 1740, his estates in the counties of Hereford and Gloucester were sold.† Thus it fell by purchase into the Griffin family at Hadnock.

The best solution of the inscription and figures in the S. E. tower, which the Author can suggest is the following. As both inscription and figures are in relief, and the edges of the blocks flush with their fellow stones, without any hollow in the middle, they were manifestly cut before putting up, made with regular tools by workmen, and are not coeval with the fabrick. One of the blocks

\* Communication.  
ii. 208.

† Fosbroke's Gloucestershire,

furnishes a clue. Upon it, are the figures of a hart couchant, and a swan, close to each other; a pretty broad hint, for the first was the badge, or cognizance of Richard the Second, and the other of Henry the Fourth. The latter, being then Earl of Derby, &c. a subject, was here on a visit at the time his son, [Henry V.] was born at Monmouth, and made a great feast upon the occasion at this Castle.\* It was usual, upon the visits of great men, to put their arms in stained glass, in the Hall Windows, and use other modes of commemoration,† To this visit and feast, the inscription and figures seem to allude. The man with the Hawk on his fist, the symbol of Nobility, and drest in the costume of Henry's æra, is apparently intended for Henry himself, and his Lady with her new born child, according to a custom quite common,‡ is personified by the Virgin Mary, and the infant Jesus. *Sumptuarius*. signifies, he, *qui erogat sumptus*,§ or "who lays out the money." If therefore the inscription be read MASTR [Magister] SUMT [uarius] ADAM HASTUN, the meaning will be that, "Adam Hastun, head-steward, or *Magister Sumptuarius*," caused these figures to be put up, in commemoration of the visit alluded to, this room being that in which

\* Bloomfield on the Wye, p. 14. † Fosbroke's Brit. Museum, 288. ‡ Id. p. 482. Petrarch's Laura was so represented and many others. § Ducange v. *Sumptuarius*.

the royal guest was lodged. Add to this, that the form of the letters is of Henry's æra.

The tower itself, much older, is stated to have been built with the ransom of an Irish prisoner and his son.\* The helmet of the former, long preserved here, would it is said, have filled half a bushel. This has been ridiculed; but whoever has seen the helmet of Sir R. Pembruge, K. G. t. Ed. iii. in Hereford Cathedral, will find that these head coverings, being made of one piece, without joint or hinge, were of course enormously large at the neck in order to be drawn over the head.

This strong fortress was in the Civil War, at first occupied by the parliament, and successively afterwards by both parties, but in 1646, it was garrisoned for the King, by Sir Richard Lingen, and taken by Col. Birch. The following is the account of the Siege, in the Newspapers of the day.

By letters to members of the House of Commons we have express, that a party of horse and foot, were drawn out of Hereford in the morning of March 10th, and joined with Colonel Kirle's horse and dragoons, and Captain Rumsey's firelocks. Colonel Kirle having joined his forces, went against Godrich Castle, a strong hold of the enemy's, and there fell on the stables, and took

\* It is certain, that in the reign of Henry IV. Henry Talbot, sold to Lord Berkely, 24 Scottish Prisoners, taken by him. Berkeley Manuscripts, p. 147.



64 horses with the hay and other provisions therein; burnt down the stables and went into the passage house, where they took most of their officers and soldiers, and have laid close siege to it. *Tuesday, March 17th, 1645,—6.*

It was Colonel Birch's party from Hereford, and Colonel Kirle's from Monmouth, that attacked Godrich Castle. Colonel Kirle, besides this, snapt another party of the enemy from Ragland, and took a lieutenant and quarter-master, 12 firelocks and 6 case of pistols.—*Perfect Diurnal from March 16th to 23rd, 1645—6.*

In the *Perfect Occurrences* for the 23rd week, ending June 5th, 1646, is the following paragraph.

Colonel Birch begs the committee to let him have some battering pieces for Godrich, else (he says) "I may sit down long enough before it; Lingen being an excepted person, and one unto whom I cannot grant any honourable terms."

In the same paper for the 24th week, June 1646 is this: "Letters from Hereford dated June 1st, advertise of Colonel Birch being before Godrich with a considerable body of horse and foot; and 2 mortar pieces and other equipage. The great Iron Culverin was going from Gloucester thither, and Colonel Birch hath sent to the committee of Salop for 2 guns from Ludlow: yet the enemy within

M. 3.

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are very resolute, but not lavish in their ammunition ; and their sallies are inconsiderable, almost all their horses being taken, to the number of about 50 by us : Colonel Birch upon advice with his council of war, gave order ; and June the 1st, his pioneers began to work, to make approaches within pistol shot of the enormous rampiers, and intends, when they are finished, to shoot granadoes in the mortar pieces. There is yet no summons sent in, but when all is ready to storm, then it is resolved to be dispatched. The prisoners that we have taken, say that they within are exceeding well provided with all necessaries, both for provisions and men, who, depend much upon the strength of the castle. Lieutenant Colonel Keckerman hath received a wound by an almost spent bullet from a musket, in his leg, and intends to remove to Hereford to be cured.

*Monday, June 22nd, 1646.* From the leaguer before Godrich Castle, letters advertise us, that the enemy within, are very resolute, if not desperate. A summons was sent on June 13th with abundance of fair and pressing arguments ; but the return was a flat denial, and confident expectation of relief before they needed it ; which occasioned Colonel Birch never to parley more ; and thereupon sent them in 6 granadoes, and tore down a piece of one of their towers. They seem yet fearless, but sparing of their ammunition, which

we hear to be not much; and yet they made a sally out and killed us 7 and hurt 10, and we have wounded as many of theirs. They cannot some think, subsist long: water begins to fail them: beer they have but little left; but other provisions they have plenty; but their hearts are stable; their walls strong and high; nothing but extremity will force them; we are to make some new approaches and then to mine; but in the mean time they desire a good supply of powder, that they may not want for their batteries, granadoes, mining and mortars; since no other way is like much to speed the work.

Colonel Birch then summoned Sir H. Lingen, the governor, and a correspondence ensued, but it is a mere general matter of menace on one side, and defiance on the other. The last letter of Birch is this to the speaker.

SIR,

Since my coming before this castle, I have used all means tending to the speedy reduction thereof, and am approached upon all sides so near that they annoy me with throwing of stones. I find the thing in itself very strong, and the defendants (being excepted persons and papists) very desperate. They have made many sallies, insomuch that they have lost at several times 100 horse, and now have not above 5 remaining. They have not killed me above 24 men in all, and never took one prisoner, though divers times we have been at hand-blows, and I find that my batteries, mortar pieces, and mining, being the three ways we now put in execution, having east a mortar piece here, which carries a shell of 200lbs. weight, I shall spend

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more powder than is here to be had, and for want of which I shall not be able to go on, if not supplied: my humble request therefore to the parliament is for 80 barrells of powder for the service of this place and county; the Magazine at Hereford being very small: with which assistance I question not to give you a timely account of this Castle, and to approve myself,

Your Humble Servant,

JOHN BIRCH.

*From Godrich, June 18th, 1646.*

One of the letters from thence tells us, that one of the Cavaliers called to our Pioneers at work in the mines, and said they cared not for being blown up, they could from the sky laugh at the flourishing of the Round-heads. The above is from the *Perfect Occurrences for the week ending June 26th, 1646.*

In the *Perfect Diurnal* of July 6th to the 13th, it is said as follows.

“Colonel Birch goes on well against Godrich Castle, and is like to carry it suddenly.”

In the *Perfect Occurrences*, for the 9th and 20th week, ending Friday July 15th, 1646, is the following letter from Godrich Castle, concerning the proceedings of Colonel Birch there.

SIR,

The enemy within are very obstinate. We have supplies of shels for our granadoes from the Forest of Dean. Our mortar piece is 15 inches diameter; yet some are come in to us out of the castle, who affirm, that there is great execution done in the castle by those shots we

have made; that many parts of it are torn. After we had at first been awhile before them, they sallied out and surprized our chief guard, killed eight of our men, and had possession of both of our mortar pieces, but could not carry them away; they did what they could to break them but could not. Then they put a glass vessel of poison in the pieces, thinking to spoil them and us this way, and retreated into the castle, carrying with them a fired grana-  
 doe which lay in the place. There is one of our guns cracked at the muzzle: I am afraid she will not prove useful: but they are now very quiet within, yet will not yield. Our ordnance are small, and have done but little execution as yet. What hath been performed yet hath been with our mortar pieces—Colonel Birch hath sent to the general for two great guns, (as this country is badly provided,) our mines go on well. This is all at present.

Your Humble Servant,

E. S.

*From Godrich July, 4th, 1646.*

In the *Perfect Occurrences* for the 1st and 30th week, ending Friday the 3rd. of July, 1646, is as follows.

*Saturday August 1st.* From before Godrich Castle, the only garrison the enemy hath now left in England, except Pendennis, we perused letters, of which we will give a copy of one, which gives an account of Colonel Birch's proceedings there,

SIR,

We are in very good forwardness with our mine, and hope very shortly to see the effect of it. Our guns have made a breach in the upper part of the wall, and the granadoes have done them much spoil in the castle; yet they take no more notice of it, than if no enemy were before it, acting little against us; only now and then firing off their muskets, yet our great mortar piece and mine (1

verily believe,) will occasion a parley for mercy, which if they obtain, I conceive will be well for them, for our leaders are extremely incensed against them. It is little thought (I believe) at London, what pains and cost is here taken; but the reducing of this once slighted castle, I hope the ————(sic) Lingen's estate will make satisfaction both to the state and to us. I am grieved that any difference should be amongst ourselves, but the occasion of it I leave to the righteous Judge, for a reward; and hope the issue will be good to those who go on with the parliament, and desire a safe and well grounded peace, without self-seeking base ends, which are hateful to

Your humble Servant,

I. E.

*Godrich Leaguer, July 18th, 1646.*

In the same paper it is said, "Nothing yet from Godrich Castle, more than what the former letter expresseth."

In the *Perfect Diurnal* from Monday August 3rd to 10th, 1646, is, "This day there came letters to the house, from Colonel Birch, which certify that Godrich Castle in Wales, not far from Ragland, is surrendered unto him for the use of the parliament. The enemy was very resolute as long as they had any hope, but Colonel Birch drawing up close upon them both horse and foot, and entering some works, the enemy hung out a white ensign, and desired a parley. The Colonel not willing to lose his advantage, refused the parley. They cried out for honourable terms. He offered mercy and went on in his enterprises. They seeing the case desperate and themselves in a lost condition, accepted of mercy upon these ensuing conditions.

*First*—That Sir Henry Lingen the governor of Godrich Castle, with all the officers and soldiers therein, shall have mercy for their lives.

*Secondly*—That the said Sir Henry Lingen, the governor, with all the officers and soldiers should surrender up themselves prisoners, to be at Colonel Birch's disposition.

*Thirdly*—That all the arms and ammunition, provision and whatever else is in Godrich Castle, shall be delivered up to Colonel Birch, for the service of the parliament.

*Fourthly*—That the same be performed personally the same day, (viz). July 31st 1646.

All which was done accordingly, this present day, and Colonel Birch is now in possession of the Castle, wherein besides the governor, were about 50 gentlemen and others of quality, and 120 soldiers

In the *Perfect Occurrences* for the week ending August 7th, 1646, is the following further detail of the capitulation, by which it appears from there being *only four barrels of powder left*, that the main cause of the surrender was want of ammunition

“ This day there came letters from Colonel Birch of the taking of Godrich Castle, all prisoners at mercy, the castle and all therein surrendering to him.”

“ A list of the officers names, the number of the soldiers, and of what was taken in Godrich Castle, July 31st, by Colonel Birch.”

|                          |   |                        |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Sir H. Lingen, Governor, | { | Sarg. Maj. John Pye,   |
| L. Col. Rog. Lingen,     | { | Captain James Edwards, |
| Sarg. Maj. James Wade,   | { | —— William Hill,       |
| Ditto James Wakeman,     | { | —— John Vaughan,       |

Captain Fredrick Hooke,  
 — Edward Cornwall,  
 — Patison,  
 Lieutenant T. Hill,  
 — John Mabbs,  
 — Howel Matthews,  
 — Wm. Greene,  
 — Richard Lochard,  
 — Peter Strete,  
 Cornets Alford  
 — Matthew Morse,  
 — Charles Rosse,  
 — John Beaumont,  
 Ensign Harris,  
 Gentlemen R. Bodenham,  
 — Thomas Bodenham,  
 — Rog. Vaughan,  
 — John Skippe,  
 — John Bodenham,  
 — John Wigmore,  
 — Wm. Madden,  
 — John Barrington,  
 — Laur. Kinsman,  
 — Richd. Chaudler,

Gentlemen T. Cornwall,  
 — Thos. Strete,  
 — Ralph Lingen,  
 — Bodenham Gunter,  
 — Wm. Edkins,  
 Six Gentlemen more.  
 Henry Maine, a supposed  
 Popish Priest.  
 Taken also, 60 Common  
 Soldiers,—Two Hammer  
 Pieces,—Four Barrels of  
 Powder,—A good pro-  
 portion of Match and  
 Bullet.—120 Arms, fixt,  
 and unfixt,—30 Barrels  
 of Beer,—1 Standard  
 Culler,—Great Stores of  
 Corn, and Meal,—60  
 Flitches of Bacon,—150  
 Bushels of Pease,—1  
 Hogshead of Claret Wine  
 Half a Hogshead of Sack,  
 Good Store of Butter,  
 Cheese and Beef.

Their gallant defence merits the preservation of their names ; some of the families still subsist.

In the same paper it is added, “ Colonel Birch is marching with all his forces and artillery, leaving only a few to keep Godrich and Hereford.”

In the *Perfect Diurnal* from March 1st, to the 8th, 1646—7, it is ordered “ that in Herefordshire, Godrich Castle be slighted.” Baronet Lingen, of Sutton Court, held it for Charles I.

It is said, upon authority of Sanderson, that Colonel Broughton, out of Gloucester, undertook to garrison Godrich Castle, but this is a mistake. Colonel Broughton's Captain Lieutenant, (says



Corbett,\*) with 50 soldiers undertook to garrison a house near Godrich Castle, neither obvious to relief, nor caring to fortify or store the place with victuals. This was done in the Governor's absence without order, disavowed by all, and owned only by the Captain himself, whose plea was, that he had no support for his men, and was forced to get his living there; but within a few days his house was fired upon him, and all his, carried prisoners to Hereford, before relief could reach him."

The connection of Godrich with the Civil Wars is further noticed in History, by its relation to the ancestors of Dean Swift, which celebrated person presented the travelling chalice for the service of the sick, used by his grandfather Thomas, Vicar of the Church. The Swifts were anciently seated at Rotherham, in Yorkshire. The elder branch was ennobled in the person of Barnham Swift, who was created Viscount Carlingford, Mar. 20, 1627, a title which became extinct upon his decease, without male issue. From a younger branch of this line, descended Thomas Swift, Vicar of Goodrich, a person distinguished by his courage and loyalty to King Charles I. in whose cause he suffered more than any person of his condition in England; for he was plundered by the Round-heads thirty six times, some say above fifty. He engaged (sic) his small estate, and having thus

\* Military Government of Gloucester, p. 115, 116.

gathered 300 broad pieces of gold, he quilted them in his waistcoat, and escaping to Ragland Castle, which still held out for the King, he presented to the Governor thereof this seasonable supply, an action which must be allowed to be the more extraordinary, inasmuch as it was performed by a private Clergyman, with a very numerous family and small estate, which had been often plundered, and who was deprived of his livings in the Church, Godrich and Bridstow. His estate at Godrich and Marstow, was also sequestered. About the time of the capture of Hereford by the rebels, he was imprisoned [correctly, *took shelter*, for Ragland was then in the King's hands] in that famous Castle. He was particularly accused of having bought arms and conveyed them into Monmouthshire, though he had not done so, and of having preached in Rosse upon that text: "Give unto Cæsar &c." in which the Earl of Stamford said he had spoken *treason*, in endeavouring to give Cæsar more than his due. This Thomas Swift married Eliz. Dryden, Aunt to the Poet, and by her was father of ten sons and four daughters. He died in 1658. Jonathan the fifth son, an attorney, married Abigail Erick, of Leicestershire, and had issue by her Jonathan, the famous Dean; and a daughter, wife of Joseph Fenton, a tanner,\* a match abhorred by her distinguished brother.

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\* Thus Mason, Hist. of St. Patrick's, Dublin, i. p. 227 229. In this work p. 229, is given from the Mercurius

The PRIORY, formerly called Flanesford, was founded by Richard Talbot in 1347, who was buried there, but at the dissolution removed to the Parish Church. The Priory Church appears as a barn, annexed to a house occupied by Mr. Bellamy, with an adjacent fish-pond.

The ancient manerial Court House is, or was ornamented with the carved figure of a Talbot, (a species of dog,) in allusion to the family name.

WALFORD on the left bank, has few antiquities. One is a *Castellum* or small square entrenchment upon Howl-hill, apparently an exploratory post to the Camp at Penyard. Another is a fortified Manor House, so altered according to tradition, that it might not be surprized by a Coup de Main, from Godrich Castle. The courts and yards are so disposed as to flank and command each other, nor could the House be taken without first carrying these, and a mount behind, which might hold field pieces. The third is the Warren, an encampment used by Colonel Kyrle, Lord of the Manor and resident at the Court House, before mentioned. He was first in the service of Charles, but turned to the Parliament. Being interred in Walford Church, where his helmet is still preser-

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Rusticus, a long detail of the plunder of the Swifts. The villains utterly disregarded protections, which Mrs. Swift had purchased, and tried to starve the infant children, "threatning the miller, that if he ground any corn for them they would grind him in his own mill."

ved, a tradition has arisen, that here was buried the more worthy defender of Godrich Castle, an opinion, founded upon confusion of persons.\*

In the Newspaper called *Perfect Occurrences*, from April 25th, to May 2nd, 1645, is the following paragraph.

“ Prince Rupert marched (from Bristol) by Walford, towards Ross, the last week, with 2000 foot and horse, with two pieces of ordnance, who since we hear were quartered near Brampton.”

The Church had formerly a spire, which was destroyed by lightning February 17th, 1813.

Near the Church of RUERDEAN, are the earthworks of a castle. From the remains of an arch, it appears to be of the 13th century, the æra of nearly all the architectural remains in the vicinity. It was the seat of the Alba-maras, and through female heirs of the Devertyes, Bicknors, and Baynhams.

It appears to have been a small strong hold with a Barbican. The shell of a seat built about the reign of Elizabeth, shows that the castle was then deserted. It was most probably destroyed for materials, when the seat was erected; nothing being left.

Tradition points out a spot, from whence the

\* Anecdotes of Colonel Kyrle, will be given under Monmouth.

Castle was battered by Cromwell's Troops; but the Castle was probably not then in existence, and there is an apparent confusion with the real fact, that after the surprize of Monmouth, Ruerdean was made by Massey, Governor of Gloucester, a parliamentary garrison to stop plunderers from Hereford.\*

Upon the opposite bank is **COURTFIELD**, the modern seat of William Vaughan, Esq. just above **WELCH BICKNOR Church**, so called because an insulated part of Monmouthshire. This separation was not uncommon, on account of annexation to a particular barony.

Mr. Coxe relates the following anecdote of an ancestor of the Vaughans. Walking one day with his son, who had been long married without issue, he challenged him to leap over a gate. The son attempted it without success; on which the old gentleman vaulted over it easily, adding "as I have cleared the gate for you, so I must e'en provide you with an heir." Accordingly he married at the age of seventy five, and left a son and three daughters.

It certainly was a Celtick method to put children out to nurse, at a neighbouring farm,† and in the Highlands, the children of gentlemen, often grow up in the families of their nurses;‡ but in England

\* Corbett, p. 119.

† Pennant's Whiteford, p. 2.

‡ Newte's Tour, p. 146.

they are removed at an age of puberty, to the houses of persons of rank.\* Sir Bevill Granville's house, till the civil wars (of Charles I.) broke out, was a kind of academy for all the young men of family in the country; he provided himself with the best masters of all kinds; and the children of his neighbours and friends shared the advantage with his own.† When the revolution commenced, says Lord Clarendon,‡ all relations were confounded by the several sects of religion, who discountenanced all forms of reverence and respect, as relicks of superstition. Children sought not blessing from their parents, and their education was neglected for fear of expence. Young women conversed without circumspection or modesty, and frequented taverns; so that Charles II. was not the author of *all* the debauchery of his æra. Consistently with the fashion of the times, before the parliamentary usurpation, Henry V. was nursed at Courtfield. The country people well knowing the attachment, which subsisted between *collactanei*, or foster-bretheren,§ have converted broken angels on each side the sepulchral effigy of the nurse, in the church, into the infant Henry and his fellow suckling. That the effigy really is that of the nurse is founded upon unvarying tradition, and with probability. The respect paid to nurses, both among

\* Hoveden a o 1191, Biogr. Brit. v. 698, et alii.

† Watkins's Bideford, 222. ‡ Own Life, i. 243. § See Giraldus Cambrensis in Camden's Scriptores, p. 743.

the Romans and our ancestors, was highly filial, and they acted as Chaperons to the daughters, often living in the family, till death.\*

Mr. Shaw, mentions an ancient Chalice, belonging to this church, as the presumed work of Arabians, near the borders of Spain, and of the date of 1176,† whereas it is only a mistake of the church-warden's initials, and the year 1600.

At ENGLISH BICKNOR, are traces of a castle, or castellated mansion.‡

At SYMOND'S YAT is a square camp, connected with the wars between the Romans and Silures; for the position is immensely strong.§

Upon the GREAT DOWARD is a camp, of which, through natural defences, only the west side is strongly fortified by entrenchments, because that part was deemed accessible. Spear heads have been found; and the common marvellous tale is told of the discovery of a Giant's bones in a place seemingly arched over.

Between the Great and Little Doward, in a valley, lies a singularly picturesque estate, called the Kiln House Farm. In a corner of it, is a romantic cavern, bearing the name of King Arthur's

\* Suetonius p. 425. 448. 456 559. Ed. Babelon—Smythe's Lives of the Berkeleys M. S.—Shakespeare in Romeo and Juliet, alludes to the custom. † Western Tour, p. 196. ‡ Bigland's Gloucestershire, in Bicknor. § So Mr. Gough Camden, ii. 448. Edition 1786. I could not find it: possibly it is hid by the wood;

Hall. It was certainly a Celtick custom so to denominate caverns, and "Fingal's Hall," a similar excavation, was a residence at least during hunting seasons.\* Caves were winter habitations of the Britons,† and residences or places of protection for the Highlanders.‡ This is merely given to illustrate a Celtic custom of so denominating caverns; for this is only a worn out iron mine.

Upon the Little Doward, a hill of peculiarly fine outline, viewed in front from the Monmouth road are the interesting remains of a British Camp. Three circular terraces wind up to the summit. It is a valuable relic of British fortification, where Caractacus probably posted himself, for how otherwise are the adjacent Roman Camps on the Great Doward and Symond's Yat to be accounted for? Ostorius probably endeavoured to force him by the Great Doward, but apparently did not succeed; and being compelled to cross the river, encamped at Symonds Yat. This inference is drawn from the circumstance of the Gauls taking up a position protected by a river, where even Cæsar declined action.§

At GANEREW, Vortigen's palace has been absurdly placed by Geoffrey of Monmouth, and his copyists; but the real spot seems to have been Dinas Emrys, engraved by Sir R. C. Hoare.||

\* Campbell's Journey from Edinburgh, i. p. 179.  
 † Henry's History of Great Britain, ii. 113. † Newte's Tour, p. 234. § Bell. Gall. L. v. c. 47. || Giraldus, i. 125.



Roman Coins have been found at MONMOUTH, but the *Blestium* of Antoninus is probably Staunton from whence by the Kymin runs a Roman road to the town under discussion.\* A British Fortress is said to have existed previous to the Roman Conquest, and to have been occupied by the Saxons, to support their conquests between the Severn and Wye. It is supposed to have been rebuilt by John, Baron of Monmouth,† whence in failure of issue, it was aliened to Prince Edward, (afterwards King Edward I.) in 1257. In 1265, after the quarrel between Symon Earl of Leicester, and Gilbert Earl of Gloucester, the former successfully besieged the castle, which Gilbert had taken and fortified; and levelled it with the ground.‡ It was however rebuilt or repaired, for devolving to John of Gaunt, by marriage with Blanch, daughter and heir of Henry, Duke of Lancaster—Henry of Bolingbroke, John's son, our Henry IV. was father of the Agincourt Warrior Henry V. born here.§ His father Henry was

\* Gents. Magazine, Jan. 1822. † In the Barons' wars in 1233, the Earl Marshal came to Monmouth to reconnoitre it for a siege. Baldwin de Gysnes the governor, discovering him, rushed out, wishing to bring in the Earl a prisoner to the castle. His bravery preventing success, a knight killed the Earl's horse. The latter seized one of Baldwin's companions by the foot, dismounted him, and jumped upon the horse. Baldwin in a rage tore off the Marshal's helmet, and seized the bridle. A cross-bow-man, seeing his danger, shot Baldwin in the breast. While his men were attending him, the Marshal was neglected, and his army coming up, a great slaughter was made among the Castellans. M. Paris, p. 329. Edition Watts. ‡ Trivet's Annales, p. 223, 224. § Gough, — Nicholson, &c.

then at Godrich Castle, and upon receiving the news of his son's birth, made a grand feast there.\* As part of the Duchy of Lancaster, Edward IV. granted it to the Herberts with whose other possessions it has devolved to the Dukes of Beaufort.† The remains stand upon the ridge of an eminence to the N. of the Monnow. The chamber where Henry V. was born, is part of an upper story, and 58 feet long by 24 broad. Another large apartment, probably the hall, adjoins. A circular stair-case tower leads to the grand apartments, and vestiges of the castle exist among stables and out-houses. From the ruins arose a handsome edifice in 1673, an occasional residence of the Beauforts; now a school.

The possession of Monmouth, as being the key of South Wales, was perpetually contested during the Civil War. In 1643, Lord Herbert had begun to place a garrison in it; but when Sir William Waller advanced, the soldiers abandoned the town, because it was naked and open.‡ It was recovered again for the King,§ and was alternately in the possession of both parties. The accounts are as follow.

“ Col Massey after capturing Beachley and Chepstow, took the town and castle of Monmouth;

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\* Bloomfield on the Wye, p. 14. † There are other accounts since the grant, but they appear to confound the fee-farm with the estate, ‡ Corbett, p. 31. § Id. 61.

which is not only the enemy's inlet into Wales, but a magazine to serve Bristol and other of the king's quarters with provisions; the manner of gaining thereof being very remarkable, and certified to be thus. Colonel Kyrle, who revolted from the parliament upon the loss of Bristol, went out with a party some miles from Monmouth, to fetch in some provisions, and being as full of jollity, as security, the most valiant Colonel Massey fell upon him and his company in the midst of their mirth (which it seems they preferred before the sending forth of scouts) and so surprised them."

"The said Colonel Kyrle being conscious to himself of his former services to the parliament, feared that he should not obtain quarter without a present recompence, and thereupon did undertake to bring Colonel Massey's men into Monmouth, offering to march in the front, which was concluded accordingly; and at his coming to the guard, they thinking it had been their own forces let down the draw-bridge, and without any opposition received them into the town, and they demanded it for the parliament, at which the garrison was so exceedingly amazed, that some of them fled away, and left their arms, and the rest called for quarter; and so this town being of great consequence, together with the castle, was reduced to the obedience of the parliament, with the loss of not above six men on both sides." Thus the

*Perfect Diurnal*, (a newspaper of the day) from September the 1st, to the 7th, 1644.\*

When Monmouth was surprised by Massey, most of the soldiers escaped, but many officers and persons of quality were taken. So *Le Mercure Anglois*, No. 15, which repeats the story of Kyrle's treachery, as does also the *London Post*, No. 7. October 1st, 1644. It adds, that Massey found in the town some brass cannon.

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\* Corbett's account varies in the particulars. Colonel Kyrle made overtures to Massie, governor of Gloucester, for the recovery of Monmouth. The latter having pursued the Prince's [Rupert's] horse into Wales, and destroyed the enemy's project in fortifying Beachley, quartered with his horse and foot near Monmouth on the Forest side, and receiving an answer to a message lately sent to Lieutenant Colonel Kyrle, propounded unto him, and followed this way; that he would feigne a post from Gloucester side, to desire a sudden return with his forces thitherward, to secure that part of the country from the enemy, which was already flown out from Bristol and Berkeley; and this message was to come to his hands at Mr. Hall's house, at High-meadow, a grand papist, where it would take wing, for its dispatch for Monmouth, by which means Kyrle commanding the horse might easily draw forth some troops to follow the rear of our party. Hereupon he feigned a sudden retreat to Gloucester, and having marched back three miles, lodged his forces in a thicket of the Forest, and sending his scouts abroad, prevented the enemy's discovery. In the mean time the intelligence reached Monmouth, and Lieutenant Colonel Kyrle draws out, whom the Governor surprized at midnight in High-meadow house, with his troop of 30 horse, and with as little noise as possible, advanced thence to Monmouth. Nevertheless, twas not so deep a silence but the alarm was given by the Cornet of the troop, who escaped the surprisal, and the attempt made more difficult, if not desperate. The town took the alarm, stood upon their guard expecting an enemy. Notwithstanding this, Kyrle with a hundred select horse, arrived at the town's end, confidently came up to the draw-bridge, pretending a return with many prisoners taken, pressed the guards and pre-

Soon afterwards the town was recovered in manner following, according to Corbett. Massie was invited by some Monmouthshire Gentlemen to take Chepstow, and Major Throgmorton was induced to weaken the garrison at Monmouth to take advantage of this surrender. The news was forthwith conveyed to the enemy, who drew together all the strength they could make of Horse and Foot from Ragland, Abergavenny, Hereford, and Godrich, and November 19th about break of day, came to the town and lay undiscovered behind a rising ground, at a quarter of a mile's distance, never thinking to make an attempt, much less to surprise it. But as the Governor's unavoidable absence, and the important enterprize of Monmouth Garrison, did cause their approach, there being not above 150 left there, so the negligence of the

vailed with Colonel Nottby, the governor of the town, by the Officers of the guard, to let down the draw-bridge, which was done, but with much jealousy, and a strong guard, and the bridge presently drawn up again, inso-much that the first party were like to be held prisoners in the town. Our forlorn hope saw that it was time to lay about them. They declare themselves, overpower the guard, and make good the bridge. They kept a strict watch over Kyrle's department, who acted his part with dexterity and valour. Our body of horse and foot were at hand, had a large entrance, subdued the town in a moment, and spared the blood of the surprized soldiers. But the dark and rainy night fitted the governor of Monmouth with the major part of the Garrison with an escape over the dry graft. We took one Major, three Captains, and divers inferior Officers, sixty common soldiers, five barrels of powder and some arms, but the town itself was the best prize, being the key of S. Wales and the only safe intercourse for the King's Army, between the West, Wales, and the Northern parts—Corbett p. 109. 111.

Captain, to whom the keyes were entrusted in the Major's absence, gave up the town into their hands. So remiss were the slender guards, that the Trevally was beaten and none took the alarm. The enemy observed, and took the courage to attempt the surprisal, come upon the higher side of the town, that looked towards Hereford, having only a sloping bank cast up to a reasonable height with a dry graft of no depth; insomuch that the guards and sentinels being all asleep or supinely negligent, above forty men presently clambered over and fell down to the next part, where they found not more than six men, who fled from the ground upon their coming on. With this, one takes an iron bar, breaks the chaine, forces the gate and sets it open to the whole body of horse, who rid up the town with full career, seized upon the main guard, before one man could be ready to give fire, and took the rest in their beds. It was done in a moment, where we lost Col. Broughton, four captains, lieutenants and ensigns, some of the committee, together with common soldiers about 160 persons, two sakers besides a drake, and nine hammer guns, taken at Beachley with ammunition and provision, and at least 400 muskets.\*

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\* Corbett, 118. The London Post of December 3rd 1644, gives a different account. It says "Colonel Massey having intelligence that the enemy was quartered and plundering about the edge of Gloucestershire, advanced to encounter them; he had left 600 men in Monmouth to defend that towne, giving them charge that they should not stirr forth until his returne; but the enemy having some design

The next *London Post* of December 10th says, "There was some hope of the recovery of Monmouth; but by reason of the overswelling of the river Severne, the countrey thereabouts is so covered with waters, that but little good in this winter season is to be expected. Some places neere Monmouth are however garrisoned to save the Forest of Deane from the enemies incursions out of that towne."

By the same paper of January 17th, 1644—5, it appears, that these incursions kept Massey's troops constantly on the alert.

A letter from Gloucester in that paper says, "We have a foule quarter hereabouts with the enemy, by reason of the losse of Monmouth. The Welch are still hearkening for our governour's absence, and then on the Forrest of Deane's side we never want constant alarmes, especially when he is towards Stroud or Cicester, so that we have a hellish life, unlesse we could divide our forces, and that cannot be till these horse doe joyne with us,"

In the *Mercurius Verdicus*, October 11th—18th, 1645, it is said, "As for Lunford's in-

at Chepstow, there was 400 men sent out to fall upon them in the mean time the Lord Herbert understanding what a weake power was left in Monmouth, he sent eight of the most crafty of his souldiers, in the habit of country peasants who pretending to be for the parliament, held a long discourse with the sentinels upon the draw-bridge, when behold, upon the sudden, two troops of Horse appeared, who breaking through the sentinels did enter the towne, which they not long after mastered."

clining to acceptance of £500, for the surrender of Monmouth, they know not of it."

This Lunsford was the famous Sir Thomas, who furnishes a curious instance of the virulence of party slander. From some report of cruelty towards women and children, he was calumniated as a person who fed upon the latter, as being actually a Cannibal.\* To him the following lines of Hudibras allude,

Made children with your tones to run for't,  
As bad as Bloody Bones or Lunsford."

P. iii. c. ii. l. 68.†

In the *Mercurius Veridicus* of October 18—25, we have "Colonel Morgan with the Monmouth, and Glamorganshire clubmen have besieged Monmouth, whereof *Lunsford* is governour. They have sent in summons, and received a negative returne." However it was very soon after taken in manner following.

"Colonel Morgan with the assistance of the country clubmen came against the towne with a considerable number of horse and foot, and after the enemy perceived that we had an intention to storme them, they fled out of the towne into the castle, after which the townesmen, considering with themselves, that if we entered by force after summons, they should be left to the violence of the souldiers, they let fall the draw-bridge, by

\* *Mercur. Aulic* Ap. 2—9. 1642.  
*Popular Antiq.* ii. 361.

† *Granger* ii. 243.



which means our men entered the towne, and the enemy stood on their guard in the castle. Then we sent for pyoneers to Deane and other parts, which came in very freely, and the next day being Thursday we began to undermine in several places; which the enemy perceiving, sent out for a parley, which was consented unto, and hostages given on both sides. At which it was agreed, the officers should march away with their owne armes, and the common souldiers without. *Mercurius Verdicus*, October 25th—November 1st, 1645. The castle however stood a siege of three days. *Perfect Diurnal*, February 9th—16th, 1645—6. The military *Vicar of Bray*, Colonel Kytle of Walford Court, obtained the government of the town, and surprised some stragglers successfully, the apparent utmost of his services. *Mercurius Verdicus*, No. 28. November 1st—8th, 1645; but was not confirmed in his situation till March, 1645—6. *Perfect Diurnal* March 16—23, 1645—6.

In the *Cities Weekly Post* of January 13th to 20th, 1645—6, it is reported, that 200 of the Ragland Horse entered Monmouth, but were driven out with much shame and loss.

Such was the state of Monmouth in 1659, that the Judges did not dare to go there to hold the assizes.—*Mercurius Politicus*, August 4—11, 1659, No. 582: but were obliged to refer the affair to parliament, who ordered a commission.

A Post-office was not established at Monmouth and several other parts of South Wales, till November 1663. The *Intelligencer*, Monday, November 16th, 1663.

The town was moated and walled, with four gates. Only a part of the moat remains, stretching to the ruins of an old gateway, in the street, near Ross turnpike. Parts of two round towers which flanked the South gate are visible, and the Monnow gate is entire. Some vaults under the house of Mr. Cecil, of the Duffryn, are attributed to Anglo-Saxon, if not *Roman* workmanship. On the North side of the church says Gough, stands a ruinous square building, in which are very thick walls, niches, and windows, and three round arched doors; supposed remains of the Priory. Tanner says, that it was founded by Withenoc de Monmouth, in the reign of Henry I. who placed a convent of black monks from St. Florian's, near Salmure in Anjou, in the church of St. Cadoc, near the castle, and afterwards in the church of St. Mary, or Catherine, as Speed. The present church occupies the site of that of the Priory, but having been partly reconstructed about 1740, the tower and lower part of the spire are the only ancient fragments. The Priory house contains an apartment, said to have been the library of Geoffrey of Monmouth,\* whose legendary work shows the extreme ignorance of the Britons, as to

\* Nicholson, &c.

their own real history. Such inventions as his, were *common practices* in the middle ages.\* St. Thomas's church is a curious old structure, ascribed in part to the Saxons, and even to the Britons. The mouldings of some arches excite particular attention. The suburbs beyond the Monnow are probably the site of the British town. Two ancient hospitals founded by John Monemue, once existed; and a free school and alms-house remain, the benefactions of William Jones, who from a porter, became a factor in London. There is also a chapel, once belonging to the makers of Monmouth Caps mentioned in Shakespeare's Henry V, of which the manufacture was removed to Bewdley, on account of a plague.†

Near Monmouth stands a very lofty eminence, called "the KYMIN." Here is a naval temple, in honor of Lord Nelson, and our other marine heroes. From hence is a most superb view of the banks of the Wye from the New Weir to Monmouth; and on the S. E. look to the nearest eminence, and you see in front the *Buckstone*, (so called from a silly story about a buck,) a famous rocking stone of the Druids, not a mile distant. Some writers upon Gallick Antiquities, call them *clacha-brath*, i. e. judgment-stones. In one direction they were moveable; but in others, the greatest force only pressed their immense weight against the sides of

\* See this exhibited in Fosbroke's *British Monachism*, new Edition, p. 19. 341.

† Nicholson, &c.

the cavity in which the apex was placed.\* They are supposed to have been used in divination, the vibrations determining the oracle; or from their sound, when violently pushed, and reverberating, that they were suited to alarm the country upon the approach of an enemy,† or as there was a passage round them, that sanctity was acquired by perambulating them; that the cavity was a sanctuary for offenders; for introducing proselytes, people under vows, or going to sacrifice,‡ or for oracular answers,§ Such stones were also funeral monuments, for Mr. Bryant says,|| “It was usual with the ancients to place one vast stone upon another for a religious memorial.” The stones thus placed, they poised so equally, that they were affected with the least external force; a breath of wind would sometimes make them vibrate. These were called rocking stones.

Thus various accounts. It is well-known that the Roman manners did not penetrate into Scotland and Ireland, from whence are to be drawn the best existing elucidations of Celtic superstition; and it is also clear that originals of the poems of Ossian are found in the Highlands, however embellished, or garbled by Macpherson. In the poem of Carric-thura we have “A rock bends along the coast, with all its echoing wood. On

\* Smith's Gaelic Antiquities, p. 71. † Archæologia V. ix. p. 216. ‡ Borlase, p. 138, &c. § Watson's Halifax, p. 26. || Notes upon Apollonius Rhodius, Argonaut. B. i.

the top is the circle of Loda, the *mossy stone of power*." And again "The king of Sora is my son, he bends *at the stone of my power*." In Fingal B. iii. we have a still stronger passage, "He called the grey-haired Snivan, *that often sung round the circle of Loda; when the stone of power heard his voice*, and battle turned in the field of the valiant." Now round Stonehenge and this rocking-stone runs a green path; it was for the *deisol*, or perambulation round the temple, or stone, three times,\* a custom which Giraldus Cambrensis says, that the Irish transferred to churches.† From Ossian we see, that the bard walked round the stone singing, and made it move, as an oracle of the fate of battle. That such stones were also sanctuaries appears from the following anecdote. "Three Englishmen in the reign of Edward I. flying from William Wallace, took refuge at the stone, called the Needle of St. Andrew, in that town *thinking to be saved by the immunity of the stone*."‡ That it was also used for healing is evident from a neighbouring custom. In Christchurch (Monmouthshire,) in the middle of the chancel, is a large flat stone, said to have belonged to a saint, but a mere memorial for one John Calmer, and upon this stone, every year, on Wednesday eve before Trinity Sunday, many women and children, who are weak in their limbs,

\* See Borlase.

† Camdeni Scriptores, p. 743,

‡ Knighton, in X. Scriptores, col. 2515.

are brought from distant places to lie from sun-set to sunrise; the parish clerk remaining with them all the night with candles.”\*

Above the stone is a rock-bason, for libations of blood, wine, honey or oil, according to Borlase,† but children upon birth were immersed three times in water‡ among the ancient Irish: and lustral water is ancient also; consisting of rain water for greater sanctity.

Upon the eastern corner of the stone is a rude arch now almost stopped up by growth of the soil, which according to Borlase, was the *sacellum*, or little chapel,§ where the Druid of the stone placed himself. So late as 1682, a hermit in Ireland, to whom the country people brought all manner of presents, was called the “*holy man of the stone*.”||

The form of the stone is an irregular square inverted pyramid,¶ and the writer of this upon trial could just perceive it move. The point, where it touches the pedestal is not above 2 feet square. Its height is about 10 feet: S. E. side 19 feet 5 inches: N. side 17 feet: S. W. 9 feet, and its south side 12 feet. The rock pedestal is an irregular square: S. E. side 12 feet: N. 14 feet 9 inches: W. 21 feet 5 inches: S. 14 feet.

\* Gough's Camden.  
X. Scriptores p. 1071.  
Hybern. No. ii. p. 64:

† P. 230.  
§ P. 150.

‡ Giraldus in  
Collect, Reb.

¶ It is engraved in the Anti-  
quarian Repertory, v. i. p. 112.

The student of Celtick Antiquities will see a fine illustration of these Druidical rocks and groves in a French book entitled "*L' Ermite en Provence*," or manners of the Basques, a people at the foot of the Pyrenees.\* That it conveys a real representation of the ancient practices alluded to, cannot be doubted, The *Bilcar* (*Bil*, assembly and *Car*, a contraction of *Cahar*, old men,) was not held in a palace, or in a space inclosed with walls, but *in a wood, upon an eminence*, which commanded the commune of Ustaritz. *Two pieces of rock* formed the seats of the president and secretary; another black, the surface of which has been roughly polished, served as a table, and there were inscribed the deliberations, and decrees of the council. The members composing the assembly stood leaning on thorn sticks, *with their backs against old oaks, which formed a circle*. They had as much respect for this wild spot, as the Romans had for the Capitol adorned with the images of their Gods, Indeed the Basques called and still call it, *Capitoli Heri*, i. e. Capitol of the Country.

"That stone circles were the *round hypæthral temples of the sun*, in Britain, mentioned by Diodorus, seems to be strongly supported by the following passage from Holinshed,† here given because it is long anterior to the age of Stukeley,

\* The passage here is taken from the Literary Gazette No. xxv. p. p. 23. 24.

† V. p. 45. Ed. 4to-

who has been called the *first* appropriator of these works to the Druids. "Mainus, King of the Scots, long before Christ, upon a religious devotion towards the Gods, having an assured believe, that without their favours all worldlie policies were but vaine, devised sundrie new ceremonies to be added unto the old, and also caused certaine places in sundrie parts of his dominion to bee appointed out, and compassed about with huge stones round like a ring; but towards the south was one mightie stone farre greater than all the rest, pitched up in manner of an altar, [Cromlechs] whereon their priests might make their sacrifices in honor of their Gods."

In witness of the thing there remaineth unto this day certaine of those great stones, standing round ringwise, which places are called by the common people the old chappels of the Gods.\* The famous *Lechlanar*, a stone bridge over a brook was so denominated, viz. *the speaking stone*, because it once spoke, when a corpse was carried over it;† and in the church-yard of *Maentwrog*, Merionethshire, is a long stone called *Maen-twrog* the stone of Twrog, a British Saint. who lived about the year 610, so that the early Christians

\* The Cromlech near Marecross co. Glamorgan is called the *Old Church*; and more instances may be seen in Gough's Camden. † Holinshed vi. 166. The oaks were also oracular, for Dr. Clark deduces the descent of the Pelasgi from the Celts, (Trav. vi. 451.) and Virgil has (Georg. ii. v. 16.) *Habita Græiis oracula quercus* [Oaks were deemed Oracles by the Greeks.]



adopted the superstition, but changed the stones into crosses.

The situation of this stone was evidently chosen, because it could be conspicuous for miles; being seen from even Ross Church-yard, distinguishable from a tree by its flat head and Y like form; a little below the nose of the promontory. Adjacent to it, is a large barrow, and on the Coleford road, a huge upright stone, sepulchral or memorial, called the Long Stone. "An old Roman road," says Mr. Coxe, "leads from the left bank of the Wye up the Kymin, passes by Staunton, and was part of the old way from Monmouth to Gloucester. At Staunton are many indications of Roman settlement. The name of Staunton proves the existence of a Roman causeway."

The first object just out of Monmouth, is *Troy House*, so called, because situated upon the small rivulet Trothy. It was formerly a seat of the Herberts; now of the Dukes of Beaufort, who reside here during the races and assizes. It is the work of Inigo Jones, and contains noble apartments, *en suite*, ornamented with fine portraits of this ducal family. Among its antiquities is a fine carved chimney-piece brought from Ragland Castle; and, as is said, the bed in which Henry V. was born, his cradle, and armour in which he fought at Agincourt. The bed is of scarlet cloth, richly fringed, the posts covered with the same. There is no

anachronism in supposing it of the 15th century: and beds *with curtains*, appear at this æra, to have been a distinction of knights banneret.\* The cradle of the classical ancients varied, being of these several forms of a small bed,† a buckler‡ or a boat.§ Rocking was usual: || Martial says, by men. ¶ Juvenal mentions a vaulted tester of fine linen to keep off flies.\*\* We find a cradle of the middle age suspended by cords, and covered with cloth,†† and that of Henry V. once preserved at Newland, is a wooden oblong chest, without tester, swinging by links of iron, between two posts, surmounted by two birds for ornament.‡‡ This looks much more ancient, than that at Troy, which has a tester, rockers, and is covered with crimson velvet, but this is similar to ancient royal cradles.§§ Both among the Romans, ||| and ourselves, the children slept in them at night, being confined by bands across. ¶¶ As to the armour, it appears to be much more recent than the time of Henry V. and only a suit for training youth. The inference therefore is, that these are relics brought from Ragland Castle, of the Somerset family.

On the Monmouthshire side of the river, about a mile and a half below Monmouth, is the church

\* Ducange Gloss, v. Banneret. † Lampridius in Ant. Diadum. ‡ Theocritus in Heraclisc. § Montfane, iii. p. i. v. 2. c. 9. || Theocrit. ubi sup. ¶ Epigr. xi, 40. \*\* Edit. Lubin, vi. lin. 81. †† Ducange v. Berceillum. ‡‡ From the Engraving. §§ Leland's Collectanea, iv. 184. ||| Sueton in Augustus, 94. ¶¶ Decem Scriptores, 1055. Lel, ubi supra.

of PENALT, situated on the side of a woody eminence, at the back of which is an extensive common. On this common is a large *oak* tree, at its foot a *stone* seat. When a corpse is brought by, on its way to the place of interment, it is deposited on this stone, and the company sing a psalm over the body.

Here is an evident continuation of the *oak* and *stones* of Druidism, and Celtick customs altered into a Christian form. It is the "song of Bards, which rose over the dead," mentioned in Ossian's death of Cuthullin, an accompaniment of the Irish howl,\* and altered by the Popes into the Trental.†

Opposite Penalt is CLOWERWALL, the castle-imitation seat of the Wyndams; and Bicksweir was a Manor, parcel of Tintern Abbey, granted to Tracy Catchmay. With Joan, only daughter of the last Tracy Catchmay, it passed to the Rooks,‡ in which family the seat and the estate remain. On the summit of this eminence, in a bleak uninteresting country, are the remains of the Castle of St. BRIAVELS, patched and cobbled, like a worn-out shoe. It was built by Milo Earl of Hereford, for the residence of the Lords Wardens of the Forest of Dean, and to restrain the incursions of the Welch. But it has been for centuries in a state of decay, and is now a prison, for delinquents in the Forest,

\* Collect. de Reb. Hybern, by Gen. de Valancey.

† Ducange, v. BARDICATIO. ‡ Fosbroke's Gloucestershire, ii, 141.

and debtors in the Hundred. In the church is a fine tomb of William Warren. The pannel contains a specimen of the ancient manner of swathing infants, exactly similar to the Roman,\* and the tyrannical custom of children, being only permitted to kneel upon a cushion, or cushioned form, when in the presence of their parents.† When the Britons buried, they erected stone pyramids or pillars,‡ an usage, which ended in crosses instead.§ The *close-tuft* stone is one of these. Formerly there was a hermitage belonging to the Abbey of Grace-dieu. Every inhabitant of this parish gives 1d. per annum to buy bread and cheese, on Whitsunday. The bread and cheese are cut into small pieces, and immediately after the service is ended, the congregation hold their hats, aprons, &c. and the churchwardens throw it to them; most commonly a general scramble takes place. This indecorous custom has recently been transferred from the church to the church-yard. It is said to be the condition of having right of common on Hudkholls, an extensive tract of wood-land: but a similar custom prevailed at Paddington, where loaves were tossed from the church-tower to be scrambled for,|| as an omen of future plenty.¶ It was derived from the *Panis fiscalis* of the Romans, so termed because given at the expence of the treasury, and

\* Boissard, iii. 20. † Henry's History of Great Britain, v. p. 3. ‡ Antiq. Discourses, i. 212. § King's Munimenta Antiqua. i. 139. || Lyson's Environs, iii. p. 605. ¶ Mereur. Publie. May 24—31, 1660.

called also *dispensatorius*, *civilis* and *gradilis*, because it was distributed from an elevated place, the steps of the amphitheatre, &c.\*

When the manufacture of wire by mills, was introduced into this kingdom, [anno 1596] the Artists who came from Germany† *first* settled at Whitebrook and TINTERN ABBEY. "Not far from hence (Tintern Abbey) says an ancient writer is now (1708) erected two Furnaces and two Forges, which perhaps make the best malleable iron in the Kingdom, that is here made into Wire, by water-mills, and other ingenious inventions, brought here by Germans, many years since, whose posterity succeeds them in their seats and employments. Here and at Whitebrook, near adjacent, are the only places in Britain for making this sort of Wire, which hath proved so advantageous to this country, and to the whole nation."

The famous Copper-work, (Red-brook) that turns so much to the advantage of the Nation, and benefit of the Undertakers is also on the river Wye managed by *Swedes*, and other Foreigners.‡

At Tintern is a House formerly belonging to the family of Fielding, battered, according to tradition by the parliamentary troops, from the brow of the hill on the opposite side of the river, where there has certainly been an encampment. This work is

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\* *Encyclopedie des Antiquit.* v. PAIN. † Qu? the accounts vary. See Beckman's *Inventions*, ii. 243. ‡ *Excursion* p. 51, 52.

not likely to have been thrown up merely for the purpose of knocking down a house; and therefore it more probably appertains to the Anglo Saxons, who fought here against the Britons.

In the year 610, Ceolwulph, King of Wessex, attacked the Britons in Glamorganshire. Theodorick or Teudric the Welch Roitelet of that country had resigned the throne to his son Maurice, and "led an eremitical life among the rocks of Dindyrn." His former subjects used to say, that he had always been victorious; and therefore as soon as he showed his face his enemies took to flight. They accordingly dragged him from the desert against his will; and the royal Hermit, once more a General, routed the Saxons at this place. In the action he received a mortal wound on the head, and desired his body to be buried, and a church to be built, upon the spot where he should happen to die. This place was Mathern near Chepstow; and Bishop Godwin says that he there saw his remains in a stone coffin.\* Tintern is said to be derived from *Din* a fortress, and *Teyrn* a Sovereign; and it is probable, that the present Abbey, was founded upon the very site of this palace, and hermitage; for it is noticeable, that the parish (Chapel Hill,) is divided into two villages; that part, where the Inn is situate, being

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\* Usserii Antiq. Eccles. Brit. p. 292. Ed. 1687.—and Richardson's Godwin, p. 393.

called *Abbey*, and the lower part near the convent the *Old Abbey*. From hence there arises a presumption, that the first monastery founded by Walter de Clare, in 1131 was begun near the Inn; but that Roger Bigod, in whose æra the present fabrick was certainly built, removed it to the site of the *Old Abbey*, for otherwise how can the distinction of *old* be satisfactorily explained?

Chaucer says, for "threttene is a covent as i guess," accordingly there were thirteen religious here at the dissolution. The idea was taken from Christ and the twelve Apostles.

Grose says of Tintern, "The principal remains consist of the church, which affords a fine specimen of the style of Architecture, called Gothic. Its rich west window still quite entire is much admired, though perhaps somewhat defective in proportion, being rather too broad for its height. The small door beneath it, is extremely poor: the intent of the Architect is manifest. He meant by its contrast with the loftiness of the roof to strike the beholders.—On the whole, though this Monastery is undoubtedly light and elegant, it wants that gloomy solemnity so essential to religious ruins.\* That at least the scenery confers.

William of Worcester gives the following dimensions of the Abbey,

\* *iii.* 167.

**TINTERN ABBEY.**

|                             | <i>Length in yards.</i> | ~~~~~ | <i>Breadth in yards.</i> |                                                                               | <i>Windows.</i> | <i>Panels.</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total length.....           | 75                      |       | —                        | Clerestory .....                                                              | 10              | 2              |
| Body of the Church.....     | —                       |       | 13½                      | N. Side lower part.....                                                       | 10              | 2              |
| South and North Aisles each | —                       |       | 6                        | Clerestory .....                                                              | 10              | 2              |
| Both Transepts .....        | 50                      |       | 5                        | E. window, with the arms of<br>the Founder, Roger Bygot                       | —               | 8              |
| Area of the Bell Tower..... | 12                      |       | 12                       | Ailes—East end.....                                                           | 2               | 3              |
| Vaulting in height.....     | 22                      |       | —                        | Principal North Window...                                                     | —               | 14             |
| Cloister .....              | 37                      |       | 33                       | Breadth of the N. and South<br>Windows 3 yards each, &<br>each contained..... | —               | 6              |
| Infirmary .....             | 34                      |       | 8                        |                                                                               |                 |                |
| Chapter House.....          | 18                      |       | 9                        |                                                                               |                 |                |

|                                                        | <i>Arches.</i> | <i>Windows.</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| South side of the Church.....                          | 10             | —               |
| Intercolumniation 5 yards.....                         | —              | —               |
| Choir.....                                             | 4              | —               |
| Number of arches on each side of the whole Church..... | 14             | —               |
| South side lower part of very long window.....         | —              | 10              |



## TINTERN ABBEY.

The actual admeasurement is as follows.

|                              |     |     |                               |    |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|----|-----|
| W. door to E. Window....     | 228 | 76  | Breadth of centre arch in the | 30 | 10  |
| North to South .....         | 150 | 50  | clear.....                    |    |     |
| Breadth of the centre pillar |     |     | East Window above the         |    |     |
| from centre to centre..      | 37  | 12½ | wall .....                    | 64 | 20½ |
| Height of centre arches....  | 70  | 23½ | West Window .....             | 42 | 14  |
| Height of small arches.....  | 30  | 10  | Wall above the west door      | 28 | 9½  |
|                              |     |     | Breadth of the west door      | 14 | 4½  |

If any particular deviations from strict architectural precision occur, the remark of Sir Christ. Wren is to be recollected, namely, that the Norman Builders were not exact to a nicety, either in their intercolumniations, or arches, or other matters,

From what has been said concerning the ancient appropriation of the Banks of the Wye to religious institutions it may be believed that the term LLANCAUT was derived from *Llan* a Church, and *Cau* a British Saint, whose family had lands given them in Gwent (this country) by Arthur. Nor does the mention of this name fictionize the tradition; for the Arthur of romance is merely a hero of a novel, borrowed from a real historical King and General, mentioned by Llywarch, Merddin and Taliessin, his contemporaries, and by the Triads, (documents of undoubted credit,) who however is not in any wise exalted by the Poets or Triads, above other Princes, who held similar stations in the country.\*

Lancaut has a military importance in another æra, the civil wars. Sir John Wintour's cavalry landed at Lancaut, where they intended to fortify and make good the pass over the Wye, by which means they might issue out of Wales, at their pleasure.†

CHEPSTOW CASTLE is said to have been besieged and taken in 1645, by the parliament;

\* Sir R. C. Hoare.—*Dibdin's Typograph. Antiq.* i. 246.  
† Corbett's *Military Government of Gloucester*, p. 128.  
M. S. S. Snell.

surprized for the king in 1648, and again recovered by the parliament; in some of which captures, treachery had a large share: notwithstanding, after a long siege, conducted by Cromwell, it was once taken by storm, and nearly all the garrison put to the sword.\*

The following paragraphs are taken from the newspapers published during the civil wars. They vary from the quoted account.

“ From Gloucester there is also certain intelligence brought to the parliament the same day, that Colonel Massie had issued out with a party of his garrison, and fallen upon Sir Henry Talbot's forces at Shepstow, (sic.) where he surprised the colonel, three captains, three lieutenants, three Irish reformadoes, sergeant major Thorn, besides sixty common soldiers, with much arms and ammunition.” *Perfect Diurnal*, January 29th to February 5th, 1643—4.

“ From Gloucester it is certified, that Colonel Morgan, the governour, is recovered of his health, and is gone to the besiegers of Chepstow; the town was taken the latter end of the week, and they were in fair hopes of the castle, (which accordingly did surrender.)” *Mercurius Verdicus*. No. 25. October 11th—18th, 1645.

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\* So Nicholson, &c.

Treachery had a share in this, for in the *City Scout*, No. 13. from October 14th to 21st, 1645, it is said.—

“ To as little purpose, as Rupert’s carrying the ladies to breakfast at Abingdon, when whom (sic) Colonel Browne billeted upon his quarters, and got more upon their bones, than they for their own bellies. Indeed *Lunsford*, (governor of *Monmouth*.) turned out the governor of *Chepstow* upon such a project, which made the man come about to us, and they lost both town and castle by it.”

In a *Perfect Diurnal*, from Monday, October 13th, to the 20th, 1645, is this.

” A messenger this day came to the house, with a further confirmation of the good news from Wales, of the taking of *Chepstow Castle*, and the town with ordnance, arms, and ammunition as before. The house ordered, that thanks should be given to God, on the Lord’s day next, for surrender of the said castle and town, in like manner as *Basing* and *Winchester*. They further ordered, thanks and a reward to the Governor of *Gloucester*, that faithful, gallant, and religious Gentleman.”

The stores in *Chepstow Castle* were immense, namely as follows.

|                                               |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Eighteen pieces of cannon<br>great and small. | 30 barrels of salt.               |
| 16 barrels of powder.                         | 4000 weight of biscet.            |
| 2 harquebuses.                                | A butt of sack.                   |
| 6 ton of lead.                                | 3 hogsheads of metheglin.         |
| Great store of fire-works.                    | 4 hogsheads of beer.              |
| 30 beeves in powder.                          | 70 bushels of oatmeal.            |
| 400 and odd kilderkins of<br>butter.          | 30 bushels of wheat.              |
|                                               | 10 bushels of beans and<br>pease. |

“ In March, 1646, it had been ordered by the commons, that Chepstow should be kept with forty men, the new fortifications in the Haven to be demolished.” *Perfect Diurnal*, March 1st—8th, 1646.

With such an imperfect garrison, its fall was a matter of course.

“ Chepstow Castle having been surprised, by Sir Nicholas Kemmish, guns and battering pieces were sent for from Gloucester against it.” *Perfect Diurnal*, May 18th, 1648.

“ *Chepstow May 12th, 1660.* The Proclamation of his majesty Charles II. was read by Colonel Hughes, attended by divers gentlemen, and persons of quality of this country, who, with a great concoure of people, expressed their loyalty to his majesty. There were several volleys of small shot, and above a hundred pieces of ordinance discharged; besides which, Lieutenant Colonel French, governor of the castle, to encourage them in their joy, gave them an hogshhead of wine, and another of beer. *Mercurius Publicus*, No. 20.

“ *May 21st, 1660.* The Earl of Worcester, and the Lord Herbert, being content that Chepstow Castle should be demolished, the house ordered the demolishing of it; and referred it to his Excellency (General Monck) to take care of the ammunition therein.” *Mercurius Public.* No. 21. May 17—24, 1660.

Beachley Passage in the parish of Tiddenham, across the Severn to *Aust*, (a corruption of the *Trajectus Augusti*,) is of high British and Roman antiquity. Edward the elder crossed here to meet Leoline, Prince of Wales. Its military importance in the days of Charles the first, was very great. “Prince Rupert, (says Corbett,)† sent 500 horse and foot into the forest, who began to fortify Beachley for a lasting guard, a place of extreme difficult approach, being a gut of land, running out between Severn and Wye: and the only commodious passage from Wales to Bristol, and the western parts. The governor (Colonel Massie,) advanced upon them, four days after they began the fortifications, and had drawn the trench half-way from the banks of one river to the other, when the other part was well guarded with a high quickset hedge, which they lined with musqueteers, and a ditch within, with a meadow beyond, wherein they had made a re-intrenchment. At high-water the place was inaccessible, by reason of their (the king’s)

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† Military Government of Gloucester, p. 108.

ships, which guarded each river with ordnance, lying level with the banks, and clearing the face of the approach from Wye to Severn. Wherefore the governor taking the advantage of low water, ten musqueteers were selected out of the forlorn hope to creep along the hedges. These gave the first alarm, and caused the enemy (the king's troops) to spend their first shot in vain. Upon the governor's (Massie's) signal, the forlorn hope rushed on, being followed by the reserve, and fell upon the track, when the whole and each part of the action was carried on without interruption. Of the king's troops some were killed, the rest taken prisoners, besides some few, that recovered the boats, and many of them, that took the water were drowned."

This Massie was a petty Marlborough, much too clever for Prince Rupert, who ruined Charles's affairs, and the history of his exploits is in a military view very instructive.

"The king's friends, proceeds Corbett,\* attempted a second time to fortify this place; but before the works were complete, Colonel Massie attacked, and defeated them, but had like to have fallen in the attempt, for the foremost of his party forcing two or three pallisadoes, found themselves between the line of pallisadoes, and a quickset hedge, lined with musqueteers. The governor in

\* p. p. 114—117.

this critical situation, who was now the leader of the forlorn hope, with not a little difficulty, forced his horse over the hedge, fell in among the king's men, by whom he was furiously recharged; his head-piece knocked off with the but end of a musket, and was in the utmost danger, when some of his own men came to his assistance, and bore down the enemy before them; slew 30, and took 220 prisoners. They forced Sir John Winter down the cliff into the river, where a little boat lay to receive him. Many took the water and were drowned: others by recovering the boats, saved themselves."

The spot, where Sir John Winter escaped, is still called *Winter's leap*, and probably because he swam his horse to the boat, a story was raised, that he leaped down from the rocks.†

*S. Tecla*, to whom the chapel at Beachley was dedicated was the British Hygeia, and the curious commixture of Druidical and Christian customs, is well pourtrayed in the following account, connected with *S. Tecla*.

"Mr. Pennant\* speaking of the Village of Llandegla, where is a church dedicated to *S. Tecla*, Virgin and Martyr, says," about 200 yards from the church, in a Quillet, called *Gwern Degla*, rises a small spring. The water is under the Tu-

† R. Sir Atkins, 530.

\* Tour in Wales, i. p. 405.



telage of the Saint, and to this day, held to be extremely beneficial in the falling sickness. The patient washes his limbs in the well; makes an offering unto it of 4d. *walks round it three times* [the Druidical *Deasuil*] and thrice repeats the Lord's prayer. These ceremonies are never begun till after sun-set, in order to inspire the votaries with greater awe. If the afflicted be of the male sex, he makes like Socrates, an offering of a *cock* to *Æsculapius*, or rather to *Tecla Hygeia*; if of the fair sex, a *hen*. [Cæsar mentions (B. Gall. l. v. c. 12) the sacredness of *fowls*, hares, and geese, among the Britons as things not to be eaten.] The fowl is carried in a basket first round the well; after that into the church-yard, when the same orisons, and the same circumambulations are performed round the church; [the *Deasuil*.] The Votary then enters the church, gets under the communion table [as under the *Cromlech*] lies down with the Bible under his or her head; is covered with the carpet or cloth, and rests there till the break of day; departing after offering sixpence, and leaving the fowl in the church. If the Bird dies the cure is supposed to have been effected, and the disease transferred to the devoted victim.\* This is a curious specimen of Christian Heathenism.

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\*Popular Antiq. ii. 265.

### PART THIRD.

SCENERY OF THE WYE, (VARIOUS).

FROM

## Plinlimmon to Ross.

THE Wye, beyond Hereford, was made by Athelstan, the boundary of the North Welch.\*

*From Plinlimmon to Llangerrig, ten miles.*

The Wye commences its progress in a naked and dreary country with a distance of undulating hills† But the river scenery is disproportioned, there not being a sufficiency of water to balance the land ‡ The situation of Llangerrig is said to exceed the powers of description ||

*Llangerrig to Rhayader, twelve miles.* The river is pent up within close rocky banks, and the channel being steep, the whole is a succession of waterfalls. The Nanerth rocks, for nearly three miles, form a fine screen to the north bank. At this spot the Wye takes an easy bend, under immense woody hills. Rhaader Gwy, in the vicinity of which, Vortigern took refuge, had a castle, built temp. Richard I. by Rees, Prince of south Wales, but destroyed in 1231, by Llewellyn,

\* Will. of Malmsh. de gest Reg. L. ii. Scriptor p. Bed. fol. 28, † Nicholson. ‡ Gilpin. || Nicholson.

Prince of North Wales. Only the fosse remains. It had also a monastery of Dominicans. Several barrows in the vicinity: three carnedhs on Gwastedin hill, the principal, Tommen Saint Ffraid, the supposed burial place of a Saint. Llewellyn, last Prince of Wales of the British line, was killed here by an ambuscade, in 1282.\*—Rhayader is a curious specimen of a Welch town; and there is a fine print of it in the Beauties of England and Wales. The arch of the bridge is elegant, and the picturesque line of the river furnishes an agreeable scene.†

*Rhayader to Bualt about thirteen miles.* Grand scenery; lofty banks; woody vales; a rocky channel, and a rapid stream ‡ About two miles on this side Bualt, the river expands into a bay, with many naked rocks in its bed, and agreeable breaks. *Bualt* is the *Bullœum Silurum*. The old castle having been destroyed by Rhys ap Griffin, it was rebuilt by the Breoses and Mortimers. Here Prince Llewellyn was killed in a wood after his defeat by the English at Irvon bridge.|| Only a piece of wall remains. The situation of Builth is singularly fine.

*Bualt to Hay.* The valley of the Wye is contracted, and the road runs at the bottom along the edge of the water.

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\* Gough, ii. 465. Nicholson, 1137. † Engraved in Malkin and Ireland, ‡ Gilpin. || Gough, ii. 470.

Mr. Gilpin says, "It is possible, I think, the Wye may in this place be more beautiful than in any other part of its course. Between Ross and Chepstow, the grandeur and beauty of *its banks* are its chief praise.—The *river itself* has no other merit than that of a winding surface of smooth water. But here, added to the same decoration from its banks, the Wye itself assumes a more beautiful character; pouring over shelving rocks, and forming itself into eddies and cascades, which a solemn parading stream through a flat channel cannot exhibit."

"An additional merit also accrues to such a river from the different forms it assumes, according to the fulness or emptiness of the stream. There are rocks of all shapes and sizes, which continually vary the appearance of the water as it rushes over, or plays among them; so that such a river to a picturesque eye, is a continued fund of new entertainment."

"The Wye also, in this part of its course, still receives farther beauty from the woods which adorn its banks, and which the navigation of the river in its lower reaches, forbids. Here the whole is perfectly rural and unincumbered. Even a boat, I believe, is never seen beyond the Hay. The boat itself might be an ornament; but we should be sorry to exchange it for the beauties of such a river as will not suffer a boat."

“Some beauties, however, the smooth river, possesses above the rapid one. In the latter you cannot have those reflections which are so ornamental to the former: nor can you have in the rapid river the opportunity of contemplating the grandeur of its banks from the surface of the water, unless indeed the road winds close along the river at the bottom, when perhaps you may see them with additional advantage.”

“The foundation of these criticisms on *smooth* and *agitated* water is this; when water is exhibited in *small quantities*, it wants the agitation of a torrent, a cascade, or some other adventitious circumstance to give it consequence; but when it is spread but in the *reach of some capital river*, in a *lake*, or an *arm of the sea*, it is then able to support its own dignity: in the former case it aims at beauty; in the latter at grandeur. Now the Wye has in no part of its course a quantity of water sufficient to give it any great degree of grandeur; so that of consequence the *smooth* part must, on the whole, yield to the more *agitated*, which possesses more beauty.”—Thus Gilpin.

A little beyond Builth, from the ferry, a beautiful reach of the river, terminates in a view of Aberhedwy Castle, of which no history is known.\* The remains are little more than a stone wall, at

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\* Nicholson says, (p. 617.) that it belonged to Llewellyn ap Griffyth, and was the last refuge of the last independent Prince of Wales.

the end of which are the fragments of two round towers. Here is an immense range of rocks, parallel with the river, of such fantastic forms, as to present the idea of towers and castles, rising out of luxuriant copses, a fine scene under a setting sun. At *Llangoed*, the seat of — Edwards Esq. (elsewhere we have *Llangoed Castle*, bought of Sir Edward Williams, Bart. by John Macnamara, Esq.) the same kind of rocky scenery leads to a wood, the breaks of which allow glimpses of the river, as far as Swaine, where the river becomes a Bay. Near *Llangoed* is a tremendously grand dingle, far from any thoroughfare.

*Maeslough*, Mr. Gilpin says, “ The ancient seat of the Howarths. The house shews the neglect of its possessor; though the situation is in its kind, perhaps one of the finest in Wales. The view from the hall-door, is spoken of as wonderfully amusing. A lawn extends to the river; which encircles it with a curve, at the distance of half a mile. The banks are enriched with various objects, among which two bridges, with winding roads, and the tower of *Glasbury-church*, surrounded by a wood, are conspicuous. A distant country equally enriched, fills the remote parts of the landscape, which is terminated by mountains. One of the bridges in this view (that at *Glasbury*) is remarkably light and elegant, consisting of several arches.” Thus Gilpin.

Maeslough is now the property of Walter Wilkins, Esq. M. P. for the county. Not far from hence is the *dingle of the Machwy*, a scene eminently grand. At a public house called the Three Cocks, the river makes the largest horse-shoe bend in its whole course.

At the *Hay*, Roman coins have been found; and some vestiges of a fortress of that nation, as said, are near the church. (As there is a place in the town called the *Bull-ring*, it is fit to observe, that this is a common country appellation of a Roman amphitheatre.) Only a gateway of the castle remains. It is supposed to have been built by Sir Philip Walwyn; and was afterwards possessed by Maud de S. Vallery, to whom tradition attributes the building of the walls and castle. A round hill is presumed to have been a speculum.—Owen Glendour ruined the town. A hamlet, called *Cusop*, is admirably picturesque. About two miles from the town, on the banks of the river, is the Castle of Clifford, built by William Fitzosborne, first Earl of Huntingdon, and afterwards held by the Todeneis, and Cliffords. Here was born fair Rosamond.\* Dryden says, her name was Jane Clifford

Jane Clifford was her name, as books aver,

Fair Rosamond was but her *nom de guerre*.†

In the Register of Godstow Nunnery, she is however called Rosamond; and the ancient writer

\* Gough and Nicholson. † Epilogue to H. II. Anderson's Poets, 6. 201.

hereafter quoted, says her name was Rose, the remainder being an addition of the royal lover, which is not improbable, *soubriquets* being the fashion of the day, and this was one peculiarly happy. But old Chroniclers show, that it is not the first instance of the name. She was a girl of much vivacity and wit, wore garments of transparent linen, called *Nebulæ*, took great delight in viewing the wild animals, with which the park of Woodstock abounded, and was much followed by young men of fashion to obtain a sight of her.\* Drayton says, she was seduced by Henry, through corruption of her governess, by which I should think must be understood, the person of quality at whose house she was educated, this being the fashion long antecedent,† coeval with,‡ and long posterior to the age of Rosamond.|| But this governess, continues Drayton, would not have succeeded, had not Henry presented Rosamond with an admirable casket, supposed by Mr. Gough, a reliquary for her private chapel,§ on which were finely represented the sports of men and animals. This casket was, after Rosamond's death, preserved at Godstow. Lord, or rather Bishop Lytton, supposes the amour to have commenced when Henry was only sixteen years old; but this is contrary to authority; for Henry was born in

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\* *Liber Niger*, &c. † 2 Kings, c. x. v. l. † *Hoveden*, Ao. 1191. f. 400. Ed. 1599. || *Biog. Brit.* v. 698. *Paston Letters* iv. 288, &c. § *Introd Sepulch. Mon.* ii. 198.



1133, and the amour took place when Eleanor had been imprisoned some time.\* She was released in 1185, after a confinement of almost twelve years in which interval Rosamond had two children and soon died.† I should think it was about 1170 that the amour commenced,‡ though it is impossible to reconcile the dates of the chroniclers. Stowe, from what source I know not, says she died in 1177; others, in the *Decem Scriptores*, &c. assert, that her youngest son Geoffrey, was made Bishop of Lincoln, in 1174: whereas her tomb was removed from Godstow church in 1191, and her eldest son Will. Longespee, died not very old, in 1222. The *bower* she inhabited was the ancient term for a *house* or *chamber*, though not *Anglo-Saxon*, as Tyrwhit says, but from the *Islandic*. Tradition has preserved memorials of her residence at London, Fulham, &c. nor can it be wholly conceded, as Brompton pretends, that it was a Labyrinth made expressly so to elude the Queen's jealousy,|| because he confutes himself, observing, that the King lived in *open* and *notorious* adultery with her. The earliest mention I

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\* Brompton, col. 1151. † Cito obiit. Brompton.

‡ Female chastity in these ages was less strictly regarded than now. Mr. Warton in his *Hist. of Eng. Poetry*, cites an instance of a Knight, who on a visit at a Lady's castle, was presented by the hostess, as a matter of course, with one of her attendants, for a bed-fellow. || A Camera Dianæ, a Camera Rosamundæ, were particular names of rooms in houses, after Rosamond's æra.

find of her being poisoned is in the *Scala Chronica*, which only says, "Rosamunde was poysonid, *as sum thinke*, by the Queene, Henry wife;"\* but, according to Brompton, copied by Knighton, the noble and lovely Magdalen retired to the nunnery of Godstow, and died there; partly, as far as can be conjectured, from remorse, from fear, and, if we may believe Drayton, from no real love for Henry, whose years were very disproportionate to her own. An ancient writer tells the following remarkable story of the opening of her grave: "If befel, that she died and was buried, whyle the King was absent; | and whanne he cam agen for grette love that he had to hyr, he wold se the body in the grave; | and whanne the grave was opened, there sate an horrible tode upon her breste bytwene her teetys, and a foul addir bigirte her body aboute the middle; | and she stank so, that the King ne non other might stonde, to se that horrible sight. | Thenne the Kynge did shette agen the grave; | and dyde wryte these two veersis upon the grave, | *Hic jacet in tumba, &c.*"—Now this cannot be true, for Henry died in 1189, and her body was *not* removed from the church, where it lay *above ground*, till 1191. This is all that is known of her. I have heard a tradition that she was so fair, that the blood could be seen to flow through her veins. She is represented so in Mr. Gale's Picture, and with probability, eyes blue,

\* Lelandi Collectanea ii. 533.

light hair, and fair complexion, being the proper characteristic of ladies of that age. Probably she had the *To Ugron* of the Greeks, that sweet and tender languish, which proceeds from the upper eyelid being finely arched, and the lower nearly strait, and partly covering the pupil of the eye, full and richly blue. Thus the Greeks always represented Venus. Beauty in the human form, consists of certain harmonic proportions, reduced to rules of art, by means of which sculptors form their statues.

*Hay to Bradwardine*—Mr. Gilpin says, "The country, which had been greatly varied before, begins now to form bolder swells. Among these, Mirebich-hill which rises full in front, continues some time before the eye, as a considerable object." Thus Gilpin.

At Bradwardine, the river is richly clothed with shrubbery. Here was a castle of Sir Richard Vehan's in the 16th century.\* As to its having been the residence of the family of Bradwardine, Archbishop of Canterbury, temp. Edward III. it is very dubious, for he was born at Hertfield in Sussex.†

*Brobury's Scar*, in the Neighbourhood, from the bold and majestic roughness of its form, contrasts beautifully with the views upon the banks of the river.

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\* Gough, ii. 448.

† Holinshed, ii. 710.

*Moccas Court*, the seat of Sir George Cornwall is situated upon an eminence on the south bank. The descent towards Hereford has many elegant villas, particularly Colonel Matthews's of Belmont.

The river from *Hereford to Ross*, is at first very circuitous. Near the conflux of the Lug and the Wye, six miles from Hereford, is Marclay Hill, which in the year 1557, did, in the words of Camden, "For three days together, shove its prodigious body forward with a horrible roaring noise, and overturning every thing in its way, raised itself to the great astonishment of the beholders to a higher place."

About a mile from Mordiford, where is pleasing scenery, is Holm Lacy, once a Premonstratensian Canonry founded by William Fitzswain, t. Henry III. Here is the grand mansion of the Scudamore family, in the oldest part, of the reign of Elizabeth. There are some fine carvings by Gibbons, and family portraits.\*

Beyond Fownhope is an ancient camp, nameless and square, and near it another, called Woldbury Hill, double trenched, nearly half a mile long, and narrow.† This hill is finely wooded, and the prospect extensive.—Harewood, the residence of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, is not the place where Ethelwold, King Edgar's minister, had a castle; for that Harewood was at Wherwell in Hampshire.

\* Nicholson.

† Gough. ii 462.

Sellack has a church of singular construction, and a square camp, called Caradoc.\* At Fawley is Warrelocks, a large camp, and Fawley Court, a mansion of the Kyrles, of the Elizabethan age. Nearly opposite to Ingeston, are the remains of an ancient building. Lower down is Eaton Hill, a camp, single trenched, and vestiges of an ancient mansion in a farm house. At Abnot is a most beautiful view of Ross.—Ashwood is a fine amphitheatre of trees, which skirts the south bank of the Wye.

All this scenery from Hereford to Ross is pronounced by Mr. Gilpin, tame : and it does not exceed mere landscape.—At all events, it is not Wye scenery, which is the Grand ; and below that, is good landscape ; fine landscape ; park scenery, or embellished landscape ; and then the Grand ; or rock, wood and water ; lastly the Sublime ; or the ground accompaniments, soaring into mountainous elevation, with wild outline ; and all these, with every addition of grouping, tinting, and exquisite delicacy of detail, occur on the BANKS OF THE

—WYE,

THE BRITISH TEMPE.

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\* Gough, 463

† Id. ii. 450

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## PREFACE.

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**THE** AUTHOR, having been invited by an honourable and learned Baronet, to investigate the Roman Roads in his Vicinity, the Reading requisite on the subject, led to a discovery, that the Camps in this portion of the dominions of Caractacus, exceeded those of the other parts, i. e. were nearly thirty to ten. Of course, the chief scene of warfare in the Campaigns of Ostorius and the illustrious Briton was in this county; and to this interesting point of history were added numerous Archaisms, not to be satisfactorily treated without elaborate investigation. The absolute necessity of scientific general matter, thus rendered the work susceptible of entertainment, out of common place; and, as the Author has never disagreed with any Gentleman in the neighbourhood, in the habits of acting fairly and reasonably, without which, harmony is impossible, it promised a means, he hopes, of amiable pleasure, to record the names of respectable neighbours in the permanent form of print, unlike perishable Church Memorials. The Author wished to add Genealogical Notices of respectable families, but notwithstanding the obvious truth of Sir Joseph Ayloffe's Remark.

concerning pedigrees,\* and the daily loss of estates, and the deterioration of titles to them, because parties do not know, where ancestors were baptized, married and buried; yet Echoism, or a slavish subordination of thinking to foolish old saws, prevents the mind keeping pace with the improvement of the age. Echoism has perpetuated the prejudice, that pedigrees are claims to honour, which ought to be modestly declined, not necessary adjuncts, as they really are, to Title-Deeds and Family Bibles. Strength of Character consists in an undeviating devotion to good sense; and if pedigrees in many rich families cannot be carried far back, it proves the facility of rising by commerce and prudence. This facility a poor relative may also possess; and as it is sometimes impossible to interest the feelings of the wealthy, unless a private advantage be connected with the propositions made to them, it is proper to state, that the real rich heirs of such a fortunate person, may lose their just claims for want of knowing his consanguinity. At present concealment is observed, as a method of Vaccination against the Small Pox of poor relations, whereas, were the Heraldic Visitations revived, (and they might well be so, under proper respect to the liberty of the subject,) the pedigree might be preserved, and privacy also secured. Others think, that

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\* Pref. to Edmondson's Heraldry. i. 88.

publication of pedigree belongs only to manerial proprietors, or their kindred. The Author, according to this dogma, has to thank these fine reasoners, for not an estate in the vicinity is equal to that, purchased by one of his own family, Mr. Guy, founder of the Hospital; whose only inheritance was a superior brain.† This circumstance was one inducement, why he published his own pedigree in *this* book; and it has added pleasurable feelings to the prosecution of the work. In short, such unconscionable Egotism appertains only to foolish Village Tyrants, who squander their money, influence, and happiness, in perpetual lawsuits and broils, and who cannot possibly be good or wise men. No such ideas were acted upon by the Heralds in their Visitations. Every gentleman, without exception, was summoned. These arguments are perfectly fair, because regard to Goths or prejudices, is utterly out of the question, in relation to the duties of literary men; and Genealogy is an important science.

The Reader will have the goodness to observe that the book applies only to matters entirely new to the public, either in the way of fact or illustration. Of course it does not include things to be found in the Beauties of England, or other meritorious compendiums; or embrace the minute details of

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† "Superiority of mind is exactly commensurate with superiority of brain. The qualities of the mind are also hereditary." Blumenbach's Physiology, p. 46. Ed. Elliotson.

County History. The Author has to mention his warm sense of valuable aid, which he has received from Mr. Jenkins, and the Rev. John Webb, both men of high taste in composition.

Some matters, have occurred to the Author, since compilation of the work, which merit notice.

Of *British Tactics*, people have a general, but not a scientific idea. The reason why the Author preferred quotation from M. Paris, is because the Tactics of the Gauls are detailed in so familiar a school-book as Cæsar's Commentaries; and the military system of the Britons was similar: e. g. the following account of the principal fortress of the Atuatici, presumed to be Brabanters, exactly applies to the Gaer-dikes (p. 3) and British Camps; yet nothing from ancient Classics has been before quoted on this subject. "The Atuatici, all their towns and castles being deserted, conveyed the whole of their property into a town excellently fortified by nature. All around, it had very high rocks and precipices, and on one part a gently sloping entrance, not more than 200 feet wide. This they fortified with a very high double wall; and upon it placed stones of great weight, and very sharp stakes.†" This accords with Tacitus's account of narrow entrances,‡ lest cavalry should force the Camp, and with Coway stakes.

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† Cæs. Bell. Gall. L. ii. c. 29. p. 53. Delph. Edit.  
§ Ann. xii. 31.

Fairy-coins (mentioned p. 36.) signified money found, which good fortune, if revealed, brought ruin on the finder. Thus an old play in the Popular Antiquities ii. 340, has

But not a word of it—tis *Fairies treasure*,  
Which but revealed, brings on the Blabbers ruin.

Some persons say, that they can point out the exact site of the walls of Ariconium; and that much burnt wheat has been found, possibly destroyed by the Danes, when they invaded Archenfield.

P. 59. after "The only notice," &c. read—The following are mixed with other subjects—It is very unfortunate for a man to meet early in the morning an ill-favoured man or woman. Gaule (Magastromancer 81) makes it a good sign to meet a virgin first, but not a harlot, and at Malabar it is unlucky to meet a washerwoman or a widow. (*Popul. Antiq.* ii. 521, 522.) As to not giving fire, Camden says of the Irish, "If they never give fire out of their houses to their neighbours, they fancy their horses will live the longer and be more healthy." Id. ii. p. 600. These superstitions are Druidical for they occur on May the 1st. Beline Day. On that day, a female crossing a river first, was thought to prevent the resort of Salmon, or demanding fire, to be a witch. Id. i. 190, 191.

The modern valuations of the sums in Doomsday are perhaps too high, for in the reign of Henry III.

Arable land was only 2d. and Meadow 4d. an acre. (*Smyth's Berkeleys M. S.*) and in 1326, Pasture was 1d. Meadow from 4d. to 10d. and Arable 3d. to 4d. per acre. (*Fleetwood Chronic. Precios. p. 93. Ed. 1st.*) In 1318, ten shillings was a common rent for a Mill. (*Glouc. Abb. Reg. B. n. 741.*) so that twenty shillings (p. 50.) is perhaps too high. The Author does not confide in the comparative calculations of value, made by any person whatever.

The Ox, mentioned (p. 63.) might be the Hostia of Virgil (*Georg. i. 345*) The genuine Moorish Dance (p. 66.) was the modern Fandango. The appellation and sooting the face were the only English imitations, *Popul. Antiq. i. 208.* The Author was perfectly aware of the beating pans when bees were swarming (see p. 71.) being mentioned by Aristotle, Pliny, Varro, and Virgil, *Georg. L. iv. 64.* but he thinks, that Celtic are much older than Roman superstitions. It is said, that Broad-meadow was formerly a Fish Pond, see p. 144. To the anecdotes of the MAN of Ross, new matter is added, but the exquisite benevolence of his divine mind, is displayed by nothing more than the following significant trifle. In the lease of the Prospect he specifically stipulates, that the people shall have liberty to hang out their clothes for drying there, though it was inconsistent, of course, with a pleasure ground. As to making ornamental gardens and giving them up to the public,

Cæsar did it, and others. Of *Gospel Trees*, mentioned p. 153, the *Popular Antiquities* is copious; and it is a well authenticated fact, that boys were annexed to the procession (as in p. 155) in order to be flogged on the spot for the purpose of permanently recollecting particular boundaries. See *Popul. Antiq.* i. 175. The learned may refer to Elliotson's *Blumenbach*, p. 46. Ed. 2. for a confirmation of the quotation from *Blackstone*, in p. 180.

The publication of the *Wye Tour* has benefited the town by augmenting the resort of strangers; and the Author dismisses the present work with stating from respectable authority, the advantages of forming cheap passages over the *Wye*, by means of abutments, piers, and swivel bridges. Complete communication in neighbouring districts, besides incidental advantages: *First*, brings tracts into cultivation, which would not otherwise repay the cost. *Secondly*, gives occasion not only to extended, but to heightened cultivation, and has precisely the same operation, as a general increase in the natural fertility of the soil. *Thirdly*, augments the value of estates by occasioning all that part of the population which is not employed in agriculture, to form great towns and there congregate itself. Thus *R. Torrens, Esq. F. R. S.* in his *Essay on the production of Wealth*. p. 203, *Seq.*

## SCENERY AROUND ROSS, GENERAL CHARACTER OF.

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*Town, site of.* A ridge ascending from the East, over hanging the Wye, which serpentine below, in strong curves.

*North East.* A fine up and down Country, mounting into a ridge above Crow Hill; beyond which, is an exquisite view of the Town, with the rich back-ground of Penyard, and the Chace.

*North.* A tamer country, but irregular, rich and cultivated; with breaks of wood, &c. in ridges: in the distance, picturesque Hills—The whole surface sprinkled with Spires, good Houses, cultivated Lands, and rich meadows.

*West.* Cultivated ground gently ascending. Acornbury and the Welch Hills in the distance.

*South.* A gentle undulating descent to the river, flanked on the left by the Chace and Howl Hill, and closed in by the ridges and hills, forming the exquisite Banks of the Wye, in semi-circle from the West to the South.

*East.* Flat rich Country, skirted by the Chace and Penyard, and lofty edge of the Forest of Dean.



## ARICONE NSIA.

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**W**HEN Ostorius Scapula was appointed by Claudius to complete the conquest of Britain, the Silures, or inhabitants of the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Brecon, Radnor and Glamorgan, held in equal contempt the allurements and menaces of the Romans. Ostorius therefore resolved to subdue them; but the Silures, who estimated very highly the Generalship of Caractacus, made under his judicious choice of ground, a tedious and desperate resistance. As there appears to have been no other regular war between the Romans and Silures, than this between Caractacus and Ostorius, we are justified in ascribing the British and Roman Camps in this county (at least where they are contiguous) to this period: and we have further traditional evidence, certainly of weight, when illustrative of actual history.\*

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\* As *Caer-Garadoc* (Gaer-ditches), *Oyster-hill* (from Ostorius), *Caplar Camp*, (from Scapula) &c. Camden, by erroneously placing the final battle at the *Querdock* near Church-Stretton, has removed the chief seat of war, though the posts of Caractacus in Shropshire are closely adjacent to the Gaer-ditches. See Camden's ideas confuted in Gough's Edition, ii. 405.

Before attempting to give an hypothetical sketch of this campaign, it is necessary to premise certain rules, concerning British and Roman Camps, and Tactics.

BRITISH CAMPS are oval or elliptic, with three or more ramparts; the access slanting and oblique, and the entrance single and narrow, to prevent, according to Tacitus, the irruption of cavalry. Sometimes they are of the shape of a figure of 8, with the top smaller than the bottom; such top being the residence of the commander in chief. Such is the Herefordshire Beacon.\*

At Croft Ambrey the form is that of a Grecian oblong Vase, with the mouth broken off.

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\* At the western extremity of this Camp is a very small round entrenched spot, not larger than a cockpit, and only to be entered by a narrow causeway, barely wide enough for one person to pass. It commands the gorge between the two hills, the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Beacons. Whether it was intended for the occupation of the commander in chief and a body guard, or a mere picket, to overlook the *pass*, the author will not *decide*; but the narrowness of the entrance causeway, not two feet, according to recollection, seems to be unnecessary under the latter supposition, and the spot commands a whole length view of the Camp. The general certainly was separated from his army. "Swelling in his rage, he strode to where Fingal lay alone." "The King was laid on his shield, on his own secret hill." Ossian, *Cathloda*, Duan iii.

The *Gaer-dikes* (or Coxwall Hill) where Caractacus was finally defeated is the section of an ellipse, three times as long as it is broad, on the point of a hill, accessible only one way, and defended on the north side by very deep double ditches, dug in the solid rock: the stones being hoarded to be rolled down upon the enemy. On the east the steepness of the ground renders it impregnable; and on the south, for the same reason, it has only one ditch. The west side where is the entrance, is fenced with double works, and to the S. W. with treble. There is also a narrow passage out of its eastern side down the pitch of the hill: and here it is worth while to notice a mistake. The words of Tacitus are in the plural number "*montes ardui*," and the *Gaer-dikes* form only one of a set of British Camps, all adjacent, and hereafter enumerated, and there were *two* opposing Roman Camps, viz. Leintwardine and Brandon: nor do the Britons appear to have been driven from the *Gaer-dikes* alone by this one final action, but from all successively.

In general, British Camps occupy the summits of hills of a ridge-like form, and commanding passes. Upon adjoining eminences was a *disgwlfu* or station of sentinels, fortified by an entrenchment; at least it occurs at Altfillo in Brecknockshire.

But there was another kind of Camp, which appears to have served both for a palace and fortress.

It is a round hill cut spirally, like a snail-mount, into terraces, with entrenchments on the top for the prince.\* Such is the Little Doward: and the pattern British Palace, Trer-caeri, is of the same model.

**ROMAN CAMPS.** These are squares, or parallelograms: and the Romans would not chuse ground, unsuited for these forms.†

They always threw up Camps at the end of a march, before they went into action, or retired to rest.§ Such camps are to be known, from being rude and imperfect.

The Romans never encamped upon hills, or threw up double trenches, but under pressure.¶

Of the **TACTICS** of Caractacus we may form a clear idea, by giving, (as more novel than copying the hacknied accounts from the Roman writers in the Histories of England) Matthew Paris's description of the Welch modes of resistance to the English men at arms, who may fairly be assimilated to the Roman Legionaries. The Britons could not withstand re-

\* A hill, cut into terraces, the Prince residing on the top, is a pure Celtic fashion. See the print of the *Horseleap* an Irish Fort in Transact. Roy. Irish Acad. 1788-9 Antiq. p. 43. † Hyginus p. 132. § Hyginus p. 114.

¶ Id. p. 121.

gular troops upon a plain.\* They used to lurk in narrow roads;† for which reason Henry the second was obliged to cut down woods, and follow the rule of Vegetius, open the highways, before he advanced;§ a tedious operation, which no doubt delayed Ostorius, for it was common with the Romans so to do, and lay the timber, in fortification, as *abbatis* on the side, whence the enemy were expected to attack.¶

The Welch also used to retreat to woods and mountains; and conveyed their wives, children and cattle into inaccessible places, destroyed the mills and bridges, dug deep holes in the fords of rivers, and carried off every kind of food.|| Thus Ostorius must have been provisioned from his rear, for in marching through a mountainous and occupied country, the Romans took no baggage with the troops;‡ not even sutlers, only the men and arms. Light troops proceeded to scour suspected places, and occupy heights and ravines, and pioneers cut down the woods. §§ To return. The Welch placed themselves behind marshes in front of woods, into which they fled to draw on their enemies, and when they saw them entangled in the swamp, attacked them to advantage. They

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\* M. Paris, 162. † Id. 295. § Id. 81. A Roman practice. See Hyginus cap. *De Itinere*.

¶ Hyginus, 295. || M. Paris, 598. 817.

‡ Hyginus p. 281. §§ Id. 293.

lined the hollows and dens on the sides of marshy roads;\* and when the latter were impassable in rainy seasons, pursued;† and also made nocturnal irruptions to devastate the country near the enemy.§ Two things, exactly coincident with the Roman accounts, occur in the thirteenth century. The attack of the castle of Montalt in 1245 is similar, as to Tactics, to the account of Tacitus of the battle of Caractacus and Ostorius, at Gaer-ditches. “ The Welch occupied the steeps of inaccessible mountains, in order to attack the English as they passed by, and threw down immense stones and darts upon them:”¶ the very plan, which they adopted with the troops of Ostorius: and if Suetonius Paulinus attacked the Druids who had retired to Anglesea, Matthew Paris tells us, that this island was in his time the nurse and refuge of all the Welch.||

As to the troops of Caractacus they merely consisted of an armed Peasantry, who were to act against Regulars; and as appears by the battle of Galgacus, the British Infantry was usually formed on the terraces or slopes of hills, in tiers, and the chariots scoured the plain below: all which plans were easily baffled by the scientific evolutions, and movements in compact bodies of the Romans, in order to come

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\* Id. 821. 311.      † Id. 810.      § Id. 569.

¶ Id. 575.      || Id. 599.

into contact with them. Bonduica or Boadicea, and Caractacus, as is usual with Barbarians, conceived warfare to consist in duels between the opposing soldiers; and of course, fighting upon such Mob Tactics, were easily defeated by troops, cased in heavy armour, who, by moving an interlinked wall of spiked shields against the unprotected bodies of the Britons, threw them into confusion, and then easily pierced them with their short swords. Those of the Britons were the Highland broad swords or Claymores, the "*Gladii enormes*" of Tacitus, useless in crowded action, and through their cutting downwards, the blow was received upon the upper rim of the shield, and the body left exposed to the Roman thrust.\* "The Romans (says Tacitus) made very quick strokes, aimed at their mouths, and *dug into* their broad limbs and naked faces." The Roman sword was but 18 inches long.

Such were the plans, which the Romans had to oppose; and when they fought with such barbarous nations, their rule was to drive them to one spot, and cut off their water, provisions, &c.† The Britons when routed, used to fly to marshes, woods, and inaccessible places, known only to themselves, nor could

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\* These Tactics further appear in the battles of Brennus and his Gauls; of Marius and the Cimbri; and engravings by Mongez of the ancient Ganlish sword, supported by Xiphiline, Plutarch, &c. † Tacit. ann. iv. 49.

the Romans, through their heavy armour, overtake them.\* It was necessary therefore to coop them up. Thus the leading plan of Ostorius was (says Tacitus) to block up all Caractacus's means of retreat; and these desperate situations produced many gallant efforts on the side of the Britons;† and this circumstance, united with the custom of Ostorius, not to attempt any thing new till he had secured his previous conquests,§ occasioned the war to be so protracted. When the Ordovices rebelled, and did not dare to fight upon level ground, Agricola, who, like Ostorius, gained all his battles by close action, stormed them personally at the head of his troops, and nearly extirpated the whole race;¶ for in the wars of rude nations, every adult capable of bearing arms is forced into the field. Ostorius in like manner stormed the posts of Caractacus by means of the Testudo: but when the British general was concealed, it was against the Roman custom to invite action.

These matters premised, and that being especially retained in memory, that the plan of Ostorius was, to cut off the retreats of Caractacus —let us take the British Camps and apply to them respectively those

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\* Hist. August. Scriptor. iii. 280.

† *Obseptis effugiis*, multa et clara facinora fecere, Tacit. Ann. xii. 31.

§ Id. xii. 32.

¶ Vit. Agric. 18.



of the Romans adjacent. In short the whole warfare consists in nothing more, than Ostorius endeavouring to bring Caractacus to close action, and the latter only chusing to fight from heights, and avoiding contact. It is also to be recollected, that Ostorius could not recruit like Caractacus, and was therefore obliged to be very cautious, which implies delay. Thus we may with fair presumptions, though not actual evidence, now impossible, conjecture, where Caractacus took up his positions, and Ostorius blockaded him. The dominions of Caractacus extended into other counties; but in this, he made his last and principal stand. As to his movements in various directions, it was matter of course, on account of seizing the strongest positions wherever occurring. It was a rule with the Romans, when they did not fear the enemy and wished to bring him to action, to encamp as near to him as possible; and having done this, to lead the troops to battle immediately, unless they had to do with an enemy, whom, from his concealing himself in pathless places and lurking holes, it was of more advantage to delay, than to conquer.\* We may therefore infer, that where the Camps lie thick together, that there Caractacus was pushed; and barrows, not far off, will attest that a battle was fought.

In making this sketch, it must be recollected, that

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\* Hyginus de castr. Roman. p. 115.

the time and line of march must be purely conjectural. The inferences are merely formed from the earthworks; and these of course, do not furnish information of a satisfactory kind on such points. The Romans always preferred a route however circuitous to one through woods and close country. Thus Cæsar† by information of Divitiacus, went more than forty miles out of his way, in order to go through an open country; and on account of the intervention of the Forest, Ostorius probably passed the Severn at Aust. Besides, it is the general opinion of Antiquaries, that Portskewid is the first Camp ever made by the Romans in Wales: and it is well-known, that the Britons attempted to prevent the debarkation of Cæsar. Probably therefore the first step taken by Caractacus, was the occupation of Portskewid, to oppose the landing of Ostorius: for nothing is more plain, than that there is an immense British work within the Roman lines; which, by their frequent process of *circumvallating*, (as they called it,) were apparently thrown up to compel the enemy to surrender, or to cut his way out.§ Nor was there any passage, then known over the Severn, where an enemy could pass, except at Aust and Beachley.

Where Caractacus went immediately afterwards does not appear; only that in the Welch counties ad-

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† Bell. Gall. L. i. c. 41.

§ Hyginus p. 121.

jacent, there are few or no earthworks, which seem to denote his having gone there. The forts hereafter mentioned proceeding across the county from the Herefordshire Beacon, rather intimate that he went northwards, possibly he made a stand at the **LITTLE DOWARD**, a valuable relic of British Fortification; for how otherwise are the adjacent Roman Camps on the Great Doward and Symonds Yat to be accounted for? Ostorius probably endeavoured to force him by the Great Doward, but apparently did not succeed; and being compelled to cross the river, encamped at Symonds Yat. This inference is drawn from the circumstance of the Gauls taking up a position, protected by a river, where even Cæsar declined action.\*

Before proceeding further, it is necessary, once for all, to repeat, that the Britons were ever obliged to retreat, when the Romans found the means of bringing them to close action: and this is the cause, why the earthworks are so numerous; as they could not oppose the Romans, but from heights at a distance. As to retreating, that was nothing; for Giraldus Cambrensis says, that the Welch passed days and nights in running over the tops of hills, and penetrating woods.† Henry the fifth, who was educated among them, was a capital runner.§

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\* Bell. Gall. L. v. c. 47.

† p. 887. Ed. Frankf.

§ Tho. de Elmham in vit Henr. v. c. 6. p. 12.

Caractacus apparently makes his way across the country in a N. E. direction to his line of Fortresses, commencing at the Herefordshire Beacon. The Camps at Geer-cop, Caplar Hills, and Warrelocks, &c. are possibly connected with this movement: Ostorius taking up his positions, in order to bring him to action upon passing the river Wye. However Caractacus, (doubtless by masterly manœuvres) is presumed, on good grounds,|| to have reached the **HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON**, a most perfect Camp. By this means he drew Ostorius into a more difficult country, with far less plain, and established his communication with Upperton, Netherton, Birdenbury, Thornbury, and Risbury, all British Encampments, forming a continued line: which began at Malvern Hills, and crossed this county. Ostorius seats himself at Wall's Hill, near Ledbury, by which he communicates with the road from Circutio† (Stretton-Granson); into which falls the Ikenilt street from Glevum (Gloucester); and by which former road from Stretton, he could pass into the Watling street at Wigmore. Upon part of this road he establishes a station (now unidentified) at Black-Caer-Dun. Thus he could receive reinforcements from his rear; and

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|| Nash's Worcestershire, &c.

† It is presumed, that this road, as were the Ikenilt and Watling streets was first a British Trackway.

was acting upon the resources of Caractacus. After some time he appears to have advanced upon sound military principles, for the Romans did every thing, *secundum artem*, along the summit of the Malvern Ridge, for the author in going that way to the Herefordshire Beacon visited a Roman Camp on the north of Castleditch, but very slight, apparently a mere halting position for a night or a few days. In the morning he probably forced the camp of Caractacus, for that there was a battle fought is to be inferred, from there having been found\* a golden arm-bracelet, as there was at Gaer-dykes,† both being buried at the time, on account of the necessity of retreating.

The British chieftain after being compelled through the danger, or consequences of close action, to evacuate the whole line of forts before mentioned, seemingly takes up his next position at Credenhill, pronounced by Aubrey, not to be a Roman Camp, though from its size it gave the name of *Magna Castra* to the subsequent adjoining station of Ken-

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\* It was set with Jewels. Nash's Worcestershire, ii 142. Who also mentions a Celt, found in the vicinity.

† The arm was a distinguished part of the person. The official oath of the Britons was *by the King's hand*. Powell's Wales, 353.

chester. Ostorius throws up blockading Camps at Burghill and Letton. Caractacus then apparently removes to **IVINGTON**, a British position, to which were out-posts at War-hill, &c. Here probably were some serious actions, for the Romans seemingly stormed the position, in order to occupy it, which they manifestly did by their altering the form of the camp to their own model.

After this there was an apparent conclusion of one of the campaigns; for Cholstry near Leominster was anciently spelt *Caerostruy*, presumed from Ostorius; and at Cursneh or Carne-hill, fosses and ramparts are discernible. The weakness too of some Roman Camps, as Dyndor or Oyster-hill (capable of being ploughed up to the area,) and the great finish of *Over-Amneh*, or *Bache Camp*, imply that Ostorius was resting on his arms, perhaps employed in clearing the country for further advance. In the meanwhile Caractacus seemingly took up his next position at **CROFT AMBREY**. Ostorius opposes to him another camp at Aymestre; and a new campaign apparently commences by Caractacus relinquishing his post, and retiring to **WEOBLY DITCHES**, near Lyonshall, where are remains of British Lanes, descending into marshy ground. Ostorius expels him from hence; and the British general, evidently in a state of distress and exhaustion, resorts to stronger fortifications, and removes to **WAPLEY CAMP**, where

he entrenches himself with five fold banks and ditches, except on one side. Being obliged to leave it, we now see a proof of the high genius of Caractacus, as a general. "Cingulum built by Labienus, is, says Alberti,\* a position which military men vehemently applaud: as upon other respects, so especially because it avoids the evils attached to nearly all mountainous towns, that, when you have reached the top, the fighting is equal; but here they are baffled by lengthened and precipitous rock: nor can the enemy by one excursion devastate the plain at option; nor block up all the entrances; nor have a safe retreat to camps placed anear; nor send out foraging and watering parties without danger: but it is otherwise with the besieged; by means of the frequent hills and vallies, they may sally upon him in various ways, and embrace every opportunity of crushing him." "Caractacus therefore (as Tacitus† observes) made his last experiment, by chusing a spot, for battle, where every thing was difficult for his enemies, and safe for himself." As his object was to avoid close action, and to oppress the Romans from steeps and precipices, this place was a cluster of strong positions (near the junction of the Clun and the Teme,) the "Montes ardui" of Tacitus, viz.

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\* Re Edific. fol. lii. 4to, Paris 1512    † Ann. xii. 33,

*Borough hill*, near Clunbury, between Purslow and Basford, *Tongley hill*, or *Bury ditches*, (3 miles N. of the Gaer-ditches) *Norton walls*, or *Whetleton hills*, (near Onibury) and the Gaer-dykes or Coxall hill, all of which Caractacus fortified and occupied, intending apparently to retreat from height to height, and preserve his advantage of distant action; for the Roman darts thrown up hill were of little or no effect. As he did, in fact, gall them terribly, when remote, the Legions formed the Testudo, stormed the works, where the ground was most accessible, and bringing the Britons to close action, drove and slaughtered them, till the remainder threw down their arms and fled. Ostorius had raised two camps at Leintwardine and Brandon, but is presumed to have attacked from the last: and though (says Tacitus) he did not put an end to all fighting, yet he certainly spent the war.\* The two barrows near Leintwardine refer to this last action.

Caractacus after this defeat [ann. 53, or 54.] is said to have fled to a citadel, or palace,† near the famous Druidical College of Cerig-y-Druidian, in Denbighshire, probably for their friendly aid and advice. This palace is called Pen-Gwer-wyn, and is a hill, hooped with an earthen rampart below, and higher

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\* Ann. xli. 39.

† Nicholson, col. 352.



up with a wall, enclosing an area of four or five acres. How he was afterwards betrayed by Cartismandua is told in the Histories of England: Ostorius endeavoured to establish his conquest by fixing garrisons among the Silures; but though from exhaustion of men and country, they never appeared in collected strength, after the time of Caractacus, they cut off in detail the petty forces of Ostorius, and others,\* which do not seem to have been supported by a covering army. Very soon after, the insurrection of Boadicea, and others less important ensued; so that the Silures could not be seriously checked, till about the year 72, when Julius Frontinus succeeded in placing Roman Stations among them, apparently because his rear was secure, and he could

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\* The scenes of action, as the object was to prevent the establishment of the Stations, were probably on the roads to or in the vicinity of Kenchester, Stretton-Granson, and other Roman Towns, which were not permanently established, till the time of Frontinus. As the Silures sallied out in parties, from woods, bogs and marshes (Sammes, 220,) which division of forces is inconsistent with throwing up, or occupying earthworks, because such a measure would have defeated their purpose of concealment, no British Camps can be reasonably ascribed to this period, though some of the Roman at a distance from these British positions, may be subsequent to the campaigns of Caractacus.

bring a sufficient protecting army, enough to allow draughts for garrisons, against a depopulated and ruined country. He was an excellent general, and no actions of moment are recorded, possibly through his good management. Soon afterwards Agricola, for the purpose of inuring the Britons to subjugation, introduced Roman arts and Luxury, under the name of Civilization. That he amply succeeded among the Silures is evident not only from the fine remains found at Caerwent, Caerleon, &c. but a remarkable instance. The carpentry of Chepstow Bridge, very recently removed, was entirely formed upon a Roman model. But Agricola added other measures. The refractory Britons, who would not conform to Roman habits and dominion, he drove, says Tacitus, into Scotland, *as into another island*,\* for so that country was considered many ages afterwards.† The wall of Hadrian was purposely raised to divide Roman Britain from these expelled malcontents, and the Romans observing the same policy as we do in the East Indies, nothing is more clear, than that, after the time of Agricola, the wars in Britain, unconnected with the cabals of individuals for the imperial purple,

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\* Between the friths of Edinborough and Dunbritton, says Sammes, p. 311.

† Petr. Apian. Cosmograph. fol. 44. 4to. Antw. 1545, ‘*Scotiæ Insulæ Civitates*’ “*Evoracum vulgo York, civitas*” of Scotland.

were merely insurrectionary, through governmental misconduct.

Thus the first historical account of Ross and its vicinity, is that of a desert, wasted by a ruinous war; indeed the greater part of Britain was then a mere forest, for, when Gordian was questor of Rome, he exhibited a picture of a wood, with two hundred stags and Britons intermixed :\* and that this was a faithful representation is proved from Giraldus Cambrensis, who states, that the Welch had vast quantities of animals, *feræ naturæ*, especially stags and hinds.†

The first step taken by the Romans, after the conquest of Britain, was the construction of highways, and making causeways over marshes, a work commenced by Agricola, and pursued by Trajan. Some of these roads were merely the British Trackways, altered to their purpose; others they made anew. Upon these, in strong passes they placed their first stations, more for defence than convenience of travelling; and these becoming seminaries of future great towns, many cities of the Britons are said to have gone to decay, because they were not situated upon the high roads §

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\* Hist. August. ii. 233 Ed. Sylburg.

† p. 887 Ed. Frankfort. § Sammes's Britannia, p. 253.

That there were any such places as cities among the Britons, in the modern sense of the term, before the Roman Conquest, is quite out of the question. They were clusters of huts situated upon the skirts of woods, or banks of rivers, where there was good pasturage for the cattle; and as British Beads have been found at Penyard, and as the low grounds adjacent are of rich pasturage, there might have been a British Town, on or about that spot; for the country corresponds with the site chosen by Dubricius, as hereafter quoted: and if so, it is probable, that the foundation of Ariconium brought it to decay, because after the Roman conquest, the towns of the Britons were generally fixed on dry and hilly grounds.\*

It appears from the *Notitia Imperii*, that an Imperial Manufactory of woollen and linen cloth, for the use of the Roman army in Britain, was established at Winchester.† [*Venta Belgarum*] That Ariconium was one of the *first* stations, founded for *military purposes*, is improbable, because it is commanded by Penyard; but it seems to have originated

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\* Morant's Colchester, p. 11. There is only one at least conspicuous exemplar of an unromanized British city, properly so called, though later than the time of Caractacus, that near Chun Castle in Cornwall, described in Britton's Architectural Antiquities, ii. 57.

† Henry's Hist. of Gr. Brit. ii. 133.

in the necessity of having a useful point of communication between *Glevum*, (Gloucester) *Blestium*, (Monmouth) *Circuitio*, (Stretton-Granson) &c. &c. and according to the remains found, it was a station devoted to manufacture in the metals, possibly for the use of the Roman army in the neighbourhood: but whether for that use, or not, it is known, that Coins of Roman Emperors have been found in an old Blo-mary or forge at Penyard,\* and that King Henry iii. ordered a temporary cessation of the forges at his wood of Penyard.† It is also certain, that warlike engines were annexed to the camps or stations of the later Empire,§ and must have required more heavy work, than suited the mere Smitheries, or shops for making arms, called *Fabricæ*, annexed to every camp or station. Nor are the roads about this station of so prominent a military character, as those about Kenchester; nor can this be satisfactorily explained, without a proper understanding of Roman highways, of which the clearest account seems to be given in the following passage of a very rare and curious work. "The Gates of a town must be adapted to the number of military ways; for some are military and others not. The former, for the march of the army and baggage, must be more spacious; the latter are

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\* Bonnor's Itiner. No. iv. pl. xiii. f. 9. Explan.

† Clause Rolls, 10, 11. Henr. iii. § Hyginus, p. 298.

those, by which we pass out of the military road to a village or town, or another military position, like a lane across a field, or streets through a city. The direction of the military ways without the city must be also very different from that within. It must run across an open country, and have every thing in view; be free from all encumbrances and inundations, and all lurking places, whence thieves or enemies can break out upon it, and it should be as strait and short, as is consistent with safety. The reason, why the Romans made their ways strait was, in the main, this; because it was very advantageous to see an enemy at a distance; and have means of stopping him with a small force, or of retreating with no loss. To every station, there were always four principal roads, adapted to the points of the compass, and as many others as there were posterns\*

The station, of which we have to treat was denominated, *Ariconium*, being the Celtic *Aricon*, with a Roman Termination.† For some time, *Ariconium* was thought to apply to Kenchester, but from the time of Horsley, the professed elaborate expositor of Roman Britain, down to Sir R. C. Hoare, the propriety of the appellation has been called in question. The error appears to have originated with Camden, and an unfounded assumption, that the thirteenth

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\* Alberto de re edificat. 4to Par. 1512 fol. 55 6.

† Lett. of the Rev. T. Leman, F. A. S. &c. to the author

Iter of Antoninus from Caerleon to Silchester was very corrupt. Even the penetrating Stukeley adopted this idea,\* though Horsley very plausibly states that the difference of distance, between the thirteenth and fourteenth Iters, seems to be founded only on the circumstance of the Romans passing the Severn at different places.†

That Ariconium was situated at the Bollatree, is supported by the most powerful evidence. The

FIRST is, the distance from Monmouth and Gloucester in the thirteenth Iter, as follows,

BLESTIO.....Monmouth.....M. P.

ARICONIO.....Bollatree......XI.

CLEVO.....Gloucester......XV.

The marks of British Trackways are visible from Olton Court and Merrivale to Arbor Hill Lane behind Old Hill, thence across Goodrich Ford to the Cross-Keys; and it has been said, that an ancient road has been cut through, which ran obliquely across the present turnpike road at Pencraig. From the Roman custom, to secure their highways from inundation, the author is not of opinion, that the ancient communication with Monmouth, (Blestium) was on the present line of road; but that it went rather by Trewarn to Ganerew, and thence by way of Manston Cross and the Priory into Monmouth. This remark is however made with suitable diffidence.

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\* Itinerary, p. 111.      † p. 43

From Ariconium to Glevum (Gloucester) pieces of Roman road are discoverable; and a connexion is seen with the way from Circutio, or Stretton-Granson, in manner following;

# ARICONIUM to GLEVUM

BURY HILL

ECCLESWALL

THE LEA.

24

Here it is lost, but seems to have fallen in with the present road, somewhere about Churcham; at a point where the road from Circutio met it, which track is given on the opposite column.

# CIRCUTIO to GLEVUM

LITTLE MARCLE

PRESTON

DYMOCK

} 3½ Miles strait;

From hence it is lost through Oxen-hall and Newent, but appears to have crossed at

GLEVUM.

GREAT ANTHONY'S } 1½ Miles strait  
TANTON

From thence between Tibberton and Huntley to Bully and Churcham-



Upon the large Maps of Herefordshire, especially Price's, the remains of the Roman road to Kenchester, may be traced, in a large portion of it, with certainty; for the author thinks, that roads actually made by the Romans, are not of easy destructibility while such as were mere repairs of British Trackways, not having the firm, elevated causeway, have often decayed and become undistinguishable. The Romans often straitened British Trackways to expedite their labour; and then the strait line is the only clue. Stukeley, when he was in danger of losing the Foss-way, says, "Upon every hill top I made an observation of some remarkable object on the opposite high ground, which continued the right line; so that, by going strait forwards, I never failed of meeting it again."\* In some cases, this straitness of road is the only means of discovering a station. The same author says, that "at Brough, no Roman token was visible, except the remarkable straitness of all the roads and bye lanes thereabout."†

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\* Itin. i. 107.

† Id. i. 104.

## PRICE'S LARGEST MAP.

- |                             |   |                                                       |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Castle end,               | } | Pretty much on the<br>line of the Turn-<br>pike road: |
| 2 Bromesash,                |   |                                                       |
| 3 Crowhill by<br>Sandford,  |   |                                                       |
| 4 By Wobach,                |   |                                                       |
| 5 Old Goer,                 | } | Celts have been found.                                |
| 6 How Caple,                |   |                                                       |
| 7 Brockhampton—             |   | Strait line lost.                                     |
| 8 Caplar* Wood,             |   |                                                       |
| 9 Ditto Camp,               |   |                                                       |
| 10 The Rise,                |   |                                                       |
| 11 Houlston,                |   |                                                       |
| 12 Fownhope by<br>the Tump, | } | Strait line again<br>appears.                         |
| 13 Mordiford,               |   |                                                       |
| 14 Longworth Hill,          | } | Strait for about a mile.                              |
| 15 Bartestre Chapel,        |   |                                                       |
| 16 Hell Hole.               |   |                                                       |

Turn short to the left. From hence the Roman road is as apparent, as any existing; strait and a causeway.

- |                                                                |   |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 17 Lugbridge,                                                  | } | Five miles strait. |
| 18 Holmer,                                                     |   |                    |
| 19 Huntinton,                                                  |   |                    |
| 20 Stretton,                                                   |   |                    |
| 21 KENCHESTER.                                                 |   |                    |
| 22 Steps below Mansel Gamage, where the<br>strait line ceases. |   |                    |

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\* Corrupted from Ostorius *Scapula*.

## TAYLOR'S LARGE MAP.

- 1 Fidler's Cross,
- 2 Hartleton,
- 3 Foxall,
- 4 Sanford,
- 5 Crow Hill,
- 6 Grendon,
- 7 Old Goer, (sic) not Gore,
- 8 New House,
- 9 Snogsash Cross,
- 10 How Caple,
- 11 Rugden,
- 12 Ealson,
- 13 Fownhope,
- 14 Brewhouse, (winding a little on account of the River and Hill,)
- 15 The Wear,
- 16 Mordiford, (by the Church, leaving Tidnor Cross on the left,)
- 17 Longworth, and so to Lugbridge, as on the other Map.

## FROM ARICONIUM TO

## PRICE'S LARGE MAP.

To Old Goer, as before, where it is lost, till we  
come to

|                |   |                        |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Hellens,       | } | About one mile strait. |
| Redding's end, |   |                        |
| Little Marcle. |   |                        |

At Little Marcle, it falls into the road from Circutio to Glevum (Gloucester) which goes on thus:

|                |   |                                          |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------------|
| Little Marcle, | } | Strait for five miles or<br>thereabouts. |
| Brooks,        |   |                                          |
| Aylton,        |   |                                          |
| Pixley,        |   |                                          |
| Trumpet,       |   |                                          |
| Maynston,      |   |                                          |
| Aspertun,      |   |                                          |
| Canon Froome,  | } |                                          |

Stretton-Grandison or CIRCUTIO.

*CIRCUTIO (STRETTON-GRANSON)*

## TAYLOR'S MAP.

On this Map, which is not so correct as the other of high excellence, are traces of another old way to Circutio; and it is mentioned here, because it was usual with the Romans to make roads parallel with British Trackways; of which last this may have been one.

How Caple, as before.

Dean's Place, by the road between Barrell Hill and Yatton:

Kinnaston, by Hall Court.

Wonder.

Putley, whence it proceeds till it appears to fall into the other road between Maynston and Asperton.

ARICONIUM to LIDNEY, where was a Camp, or according to some writers, the Station *Abone*. At all events, the remains exceed those of a Camp.\* By means of Lidney, Ariconium had a proper military connection with the Via Julia, and so with Caer-went (*Venta Silurum*) Caerleon and other stations.

The roads in the Forest are obviously very difficult to trace; but the Romans in making such ways over morasses, appear to have trenched the line of the Moss, which was destined to receive the road, very deeply on either side; and the larger and more solid plates of turf, which rose with the shovel from the lower parts of the trench, they laid upon the original face of the bog; and raised§ the level of it more than a yard in height. This causeway construction and the straitness usual, might, by tracking the roads from Lidney, like radii from a centre, lead to discoveries.

Traces of vicinal ways, in connection with Ariconium, appear in two directions.

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\* Antiquar. Repertory, i. 134. Bigland's Gloucestershire, i. 150.

§ Whitaker's Manchester, i. 125.

## I.

Michel Dean,  
Abbenhall,  
Little Dean,  
Blakeney,  
Lidney.

## II.

Above the Lea,  
Between Michel Dean and  
Ruerdean,  
Between Serridge Hill and  
Stockwell Green,  
Lidney.

By Kenchester, Ariconium communicated with Gobannium (Abergavenny) on the south; and by Circutio (Stretton-Grandison) with Brannogenium (Worcester) on the north.

These statements are made upon the authority of the best Maps; and are founded upon the distinctive rectilinear character of Roman roads, and in the turns at angles, because their ways often fall into one another. It is an acknowledged rule, that the Itineraries do not show the shortest ways, but the roads which lay fittest for business, especially for the Roman Magistrates taking their progress through the several cities or colonies\*

As to the ways immediately on, or near the site of Ariconium, the author has to report the result of his survey on the spot. At the south angle of the field called the Cindries, represented as the principal part of the station, but in fact the extremity of it, runs

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\* Morant's Colchester, p. 16.

a lane, through Bury Bill, quite strait from the station, to a field called Lydiat Meadow. In the year 1819, the occupying tenant was mooting up the hedgerow on the western side, in order to throw the lane into the field. The eastern side of the meadow was fenced in by the hedge belonging to the road. From this meadow it crosses fields, ploughed up, and then appears again in a strait line terminating a little to the left of *Castle* end, a term used, either because it was the end of the station or fortress, (Richborough *Castle*, being still the appellation of that Roman station in Kent,) or perhaps of Eccleswall Castle precincts.

The farmers are said to have thrown into the fields numerous lanes; one road is thought to have had a direct communication with Framilode Passage: and the Castle Tump at Dymock, seems to have been only a *Specula* or observatory tumulus, common on the sides of Roman roads; for it is situated at the corner of four roads, one of which, the northern, was apparently part of the road from this station to Upton, the supposed Ypocessa of Ravennas, which joined the Ikenild street at Tewkesbury. To make this investigation complete it would be necessary to examine all the old lanes, and note down the strait pieces of them with their respective lengths, (for stations were in general remarkable for the straitness of all the roads



and bye lanes about them;\*) but it is a work of tedious travelling, which it is not in the power of the author to execute.

The second test of this being a station is the nature of the ground. It consists of gentle knolls, surrounded by heights in the distance. Caerwent and other stations are of similar character.

The third proof is the Camp on Penyard. The Romans had a summer and winter station near each other.† The station Venones, near Bittesby in Nottinghamshire afterwards called Cleycester was nearly a mile from the Camp.§ But whether this camp on the Chace or Penyard was the *Æstiva Castra* of the station, in subsequent æras, or not, it was probably, (as the Romans did not go into action, without first throwing up a camp,||) the spot from whence they went to found Aricon, and the fortification from which they protected it; there being at Walford, a *Castellum* or advanced post implying permanent occupation to preserve the communication, and command a view of all the adjacent heights on the south.

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\* See before, p. 25.

† Hutchinson's *Durham*, ii. 399, note.

§ Thoroton's *Nottinghamshire* in *Hicklin*.

Hyginus de *Castr. Romanor.* p. 115.

The fourth proof is the denomination *Bury Hill*. This name often corrupted into *Brill* was that given to the fortification made by Edward the elder at Towcester.\* It was a common term of the Anglo-Saxons; and beyond the camp at Symonds Yat, on the road from hence towards Stanton, where runs a Roman way, is another Bury Hill; and places without number are so called in various parts of the Empire.

The fifth evidence is the word *Archenfield*. In the Saxon Chronicle† it is called *Yrcinga-feld*. Geoffrey of Monmouth mentions “a nation, called *Herging* upon the River Wye,”§ alluding plainly to the petty British Kingdom of *Erching*, mentioned hereafter; which Somner defines by *Herinaceorum Mons*, or hill of Hedge-hogs.|| In Domesday book it is called *Arcenefelde*; and Bishop Gibson, who is copied verbatim by Lye¶ defines it by *Aricon-field*: the latter term, not being limited by the Anglo-Saxons to its modern meaning, but also denoting a vast mountainous place.‡

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\* Stukeley's Itiner. i. p. 41. † p. 103.

§ “In natione Herging super fluvium Gwaiæ” as quoted in Abp. Usher's Eceles. Antiq. p. 34.

|| Chron. Sax. Nom. Loc. Explie. p. 33. Lel. Collect. iv. 141.

¶ V. Yrcinga-feld. Chron. Sax. ub. supr.

‡ Lye v. *Felda*.

The sixth attestation is the enormous quantity of coins discovered on the spot. The Saxon Chronicle says, "In this year [418] the Romans collected all the treasures of Gold, which they had in Britain, and part they concealed in the ground, that no man might afterwards find them, and part they carried with them into Gaul."\* From this passage the following inference has been deduced. "We are to expect coins at such places as were of great note in the year 418, when the Romans on leaving the island hid their treasure: and the greater the towns were the treasure is so much the larger; and consequently more coins are discovered in or about such towns as were of more considerable note.†"

The seventh attestation is the great number of lanes and roads on or just around the spot. These were not only for the necessary purposes of communication, like streets, but, that the garrison might not be exposed to danger. On the west side of the town of Ancaster was a road, for the convenience of those, who travelled when the Gates were shut.§ It has been already said, that the farmers have thrown numerous lanes into the fields.

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\* Chron. Sax. p. 10.

† Bibl. Topogr. Brit. v. iv. p. p. 132. 133. 143.

§ Stukeley's Itin. i. 86.

The eighth proof is the situation of Bromesash which gave name to the Hundred, in or close to the station: for Hundred Courts were to be held, on account of security, in fortified places.\*

Lastly, the Traditions on the spot affirm that the ancient city was very considerable, and extended at least over the whole space between Bollatree and Bromesash. The old inhabitants call it Rose Town; and the extent was upwards of twenty acres of land. The site bore precisely the appearance of Kenchester. It consisted of confused heaps of rubbish, with here and there walls, and was covered with bushes from which hedgewood was cut. Mr. Merrick, a proprietor, not many years ago, first cleared the land of the stones. Remains of statues, heads, arms, &c. were found; and such a quantity of pieces of bronze and coins, as when sold amounted to fifteen pounds. Such was the ignorance of the times, that the money was called Fairy-coins. Those exhibited to the author were of the later Emperors. It has been said, that a large bronze head with ram's horns was found. That the town was a Roman Birmingham, cannot be doubted, from the cinders of ore, which now remain: and the head of a battering ram might have been there cast. Upon digging the foundation of houses

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\* Spelmani Archæologus, p. 366.

are still found; but the author could not hear from the traditions, preserved by the oldest inhabitants, that any other part of a building was ever found, than that of a vault with steps, discovered accidentally by some children. The site is forgotten, except that it was in a field, east of the Wynchfurlong, between the station and Bromesash. Fragments of Urns, Vases, Pins, Fibulæ, and other denotations of residence have been found; but no tessellated pavement, possibly because the part explored has been merely the site of the manufactory. For by the dip of the ground at the Cindries, it was probably situated at the lower or Prætorian end of the station, where was the veterinarium or workshops of arms, &c. and if so, the ground above is the most likely spot for grand remains, because near the Prætorium. From the preceding statements, it may be inferred that in the Roman and British æra *Aricon* or *Ariconium* was the metropolis of a particular district, afterwards a British Kingdom called from its name, Ariconfield, or Archenfield:\* that it was occupied by the Romans, as a very convenient stage, between Glevum (Gloucester)

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\* We shall see hereafter from the account of Dubricius that originally Archenfield was a petty British Kingdom, extending from the western edge of the Forest of Dean, as far at least as Madley and Moccas one way.

and Magna, (Kenchester.) As also the vicinity abounded in wood, it appears, from the vast quantity of Scorix still remaining, that they established Iron-works on the spot, as they did in the adjacent Forest of Dean, in order to assart the land, and thus render the country more productive and profitable, as well as safer in a military view.—As to the Britons, those who inhabited cities were chiefly men engaged in commerce, and their great Market day was Wednesday, from its dedication to Mercury the God of Trade.\* The chief of these were no doubt Iron-workers; for Smithery was the staple trade of the whole adjacent country, for many ages after the Roman evacuation of Britain:

After this period, the year 410, Britain was governed by petty tyrants, of whom there were not less than thirty, so many being the number of independent states, and in each there was a Bishop. The people in general were in two divisions, the free and the servile; and the Magistrates were *Decurions*, a sort of Aldermen, and other subordinate officers.†

Thus there was a constitution, both religious and civil, and we have evidences of the existence of both in this country.

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\* M. Paris, p. 994. † Turner's Anglo-Saxons, i. 135-6.

The prefix of Llan to the name of a place, as much denotes a church or religious house among the Britons, as the mention of a Priest in Domesday does in the Anglo-Saxon æra. There are near Ross, Llangarran, Llanwarn, Llanfrother, Llandinabo, &c. all upon the western side of the Wye, and three of them Llanwarn, Llanfrother and Llandinabo, are near Hentland, four miles only from Ross, where was a large College of religious men, like the famous Monastery of Bangor. On the eastern side of the River the names of the places are chiefly Anglo-Saxon. In the vicinity is also a parish, called Saint Weonards. This holy man was a Hermit, for in the painted glass in the north window is or was S. WENARDUS HEREMITA under the figure of an old man, holding a book in one hand and an axe in the other,\* possibly because he was decapitated by the Anglo-Saxons.† The British Churches, were built on or near Druidical places of worship, and they were also dwelling places; but they were not stone-buildings, which were deemed almost miraculous. They were in the form however of old houses: the fronts always to the S. east, hav-

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\* Gough's Camden in Herefordshire.

† The author is unable to refer to Capgrave, for any legend of him.

ing great windows opening that way.\* At the time of Aurelius Ambrosius, i. e. the fifth century, the state of this country in a religious view, is detailed as follows, in literal translation: "A certain petty King of the country of Ertic or Ercych,† called Pepiau, but in the British language, surnamed Clavorauc, which in Latin is interpreted Reumaticus, or Spumosus, having gone against his enemies upon an expedition, and returned to his own territory with a trophy, ordered his daughter, by name Eurdil to wash his head, on account of his fatigue in the battle. When she attempted to execute his command, the father perceived by her size§ that she was pregnant. On this account, the King excessively angry, ordered her to be enclosed in a hide, and thrown into the river, in order that wheresoever fortune might take her, she might be sunk in the deep of the river. Which thing, because it by no means pleased God, he was unable to effect. For, before the offspring which she had in her womb could be born, the Lord

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\* Rowland's, *Mona Antiqua*. 158. 221. Script. post. Bed. 155. a.

† The erroneous versions of Wharton are well known. In the *Chronicles of Warwick* quoted by Archbishop Usher *Eccles. Antiq.* p. 238 Ed. fol. it is "*Regem Erchyng. Pepiau nomine;*" thus decisively proving the spot to be *Archen*-field; the *Hergyng* of Geoffrey of Monmouth before quoted: The *Yrcynga*-feld of the *Saxon Chronicle*, and *Arcene-felde* of *Doomsday*. § *Gravitate*.



thought worthy by showing his mercy and protection, to exhibit of what merit it was about to be: since the mother could by no means be sunk in the water. For, as often as she was placed in the river, so many times she was carried again uninjured to the bank. Hence the indignant father, because he was unable to immerge her in the waves, ordered her to be burned with fire; at whose order a pile is immediately prepared for her destruction, and the terror of other girls; into which the daughter of the aforesaid King, Eurdil, is put in burning flames. But on the morrow morning, whilst she was thought to have been completely burnt in the fire, messengers having been sent by the father to enquire if any of her bones remained unburnt, they found her safe, and holding the son, whom she had brought forth in the midst of the fire, in her bosom, her clothes and hair being uninjured by the fire. For a very great stone was placed near the spot where she brought forth her son, in token of the birth of the boy. But the place, in which the boy was born was called in the British Tongue, *Maismail' Lochou* by some, *Matle* by others, because the blessed *little man*\* was born there: which place by the corruption of the English

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\* *Homuncio*, rascal, scrubby fellow in the classical interpretation, but this could not possibly be the meaning of the Monkish author.

idioms is named Medeley. [Madley near Hereford] But the boy, as soon as he obtained the laver of regeneration is called Dubricius, and is immediately filled with the Holy Ghost: but who was his father remains unknown to the men of this time: and, therefore, some mistaken people fabulously pretend, that he had no father."

Through the utter impossibility of making any impression upon the barbarians of that age, by common sense or reason, it was customary, upon the same principle as that of Columbus, when he affrighted the Indians by making a miracle of an Eclipse, to invent prodigies, which were executed by disguised human agency; and it was a common stratagem among the Greek and Roman Generals and Priests, the Crusaders, Jesuits and others.\* Thus the unfortunate Princess was saved from drowning by an inflated hide, and from the fire by creeping under a stone or rock, placed there on purpose.

To proceed: "When, therefore, the father of the aforesaid girl had heard from his officers what things the Lord had done towards her and her son, moreover the wonderful beauty and elegance of the tiny boy,

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\* See Mills's History of the Crusades, i. 208, seq. Wadsworth's English Spanish Pilgrim, p. 19. 4to. 1630. et alios.

and the grace of God very conspicuous in him, very much desiring to see them, ordered them to bring his daughter with her new-born child immediately to him. Upon their being presented to him, immediately embracing the child with paternal affection, he began afterwards to love him, above all his other children and grandchildren; and made him heir of that farm, where he was born, which was called Matle by the natives, i. e. *good place*, because the good, or blessed man, had been there born. Moreover after the course of a few years, the aforesaid King Pepiau made Dubricius heir of all this island, and ordered it to be called from that time *Miserbdil*, from the name of Eurdil his mother. From that time the little boy increased every day in age and wisdom; and having obtained seasonable time of learning, is delivered to be instructed in letters, who a little time after flourished famously in prudence, together with the knowledge of divine precepts. And although a youth in years, yet becoming in a short time a gray headed old man in understanding, and the virtue of knowledge in eloquence, likewise in skill in both the testaments, he was cried up with so celebrated a reputation through all Britain, that from nearly all the provinces of the whole kingdom, not only the ignorant but the informed, flocked to him for the sake of instruction and edification, in a different dogma. Of whom the chief are known, viz. S. Thelious, Samson

his disciple, Ubeline and Aidan, with sixteen others, whose names we have not thought it fit to insert in this history; besides another thousand clerks, whom he had detained for the term of seven years to be instructed in liberal discipline in the county, called Hentland,\* which is seated near the River Wye, affording to them in himself a form of religious life and perfect charity. Again the Doctor in like manner in the soil of his nativity, namely in the island of Miserbdil, near the bank of the river which is called Wye, chusing a situation, rich in wood and fish, fit for himself and the multitude of his disciples, remained in superintending that study to many, imposing upon the place the name of *Moth-ros*, or *Moch-ros*,† i. e. the place of Pigs.‡ There he lived

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\* From Hentland there runs a British Trackway to the Meend, thence to Miret, thence to Wilzon, thence to Whitfield, where it falls into the Turnpike road at Pencreck: but probably went further, for the author has been informed, that, in making the present Turnpike road, a way apparently Roman was cut through.—The present road from Welsh Newton to the Callow beyond Dewsall, appears to run upon an ancient line.

† There is near Hereford a place called *Mockes*, or *Moccas*.

Because he dreamed that he should found a dwelling and church, where he discovered a white sow and pigs. (Usserii Eccles. Antiq. p. 239.) an old story borrowed from Virgil, and applied to various places.

for a long course of days; preaching and teaching the clergy and people, his learning shining through all Britain, like a lamp upon a candlestick, every superstition of bad doctrine being removed. Also during the whole time in which he preached the word to the Britons, the same nation preserved the sound and catholic faith.\* [These passages allude to the Pelagian Heresy, with which the British clergy were infected.]

Hereford arose out of the ruins of Kenchester, evidently because the new situation had the advantage of the river, and was close to a ford. In the same manner Ross is said by tradition to have been founded from the ruins of Ariconium, the materials in part having been removed to the former which lies upon the banks of the river.

After the donation of the Manor to the See of Hereford, the Bishops contributed much to its improvement by founding a palace on the spot. By this term palace we are not to understand one of those magnificent buildings now so denominated, but a *foleia*, (whence is derived our modern word, *Folly*, applied to houses) a pleasant summer rural residence.† Besides, it was

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\* Vita S. Dubricii by Benedict of Gloucester in Angl. Sacr. ii. 654 seq.

† Actum ap. domum Foleyce A. D. 1280. Ducauge v. Foleia—Foleya.

the custom of our ancestors when they held their lands in their own hands, or received their rents in kind, to move about to their different Manors; having only one principal dwelling, called the Standing House, and that of the old Bishops at least out of Hereford, appears to have been at Sugwas. § Without these removals they could not have supported their enormous establishments in domestics and horses. In the year 918 the Danes entered the mouth of the Severn, and laid hold of Bishop Cameleac, then in Archenfield† by which as there does not appear to have been any other Episcopal residence in that district, we may presume he was stopping at Ross. The King, [Edward the elder] however, ransomed him for forty pounds. After this the Danes again landed, and endeavoured to go a second time into Archenfield for the sake of plunder; but the inhabitants, joined with those of Gloucester and the neighbouring cities, miserably defeated them. || From the Danes endeavouring to march here, we may presume, that there was something to plunder, and the state of places and civilization in the reign of Alfred, may be estimated by the size of the hundred. He borrowed the plan from the Germans; and every hundred contained that number of farms, as we should now call them. Of course, where the hundred is but small the

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§ Gough's Camden.    † Chron. Saxon, p. 105.    || Ibid.

cultivation was considerable, and the place well stocked for the age with inhabitants and cattle.

The Royal Manors before the coming of the Normans, were furnished with churches; and chapels also in the Hamlets, not far short of parochial churches; and so were many other great Manors, and some little ones also.§ It is accordingly observed, that in ARCENEFELDE the King had three churches, whose priests performed the King's Embassies into Wales.† The policy of thus founding churches in these districts, in order to tame and subjugate the Britons, is made apparent by the following lines from an old poem in Higden, concerning the manners of the Welch. They were accustomed to idolatrize the ministers of religion.

|                          |                                          |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Parent tamen presbyteris | Yet they obey priests                    |
| Et summi Dei famulos     | And the servants of the<br>most high God |
| Venerantur ut angelos¶   | Worship like Angels.                     |

This veneration was an archaism, derived from their subjection to the Druids. Hereford was in the time of the Confessor inhabited chiefly by Anglo-Saxon and Norman Burgesses; and Ross no doubt by persons of the same nations in the main, for the

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§ Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, Introd. xiv. Ed. Thorsby.  
 † Doomsday. ¶ xv. Scriptores, 188.

Welch did not live in towns, until they had been civilized by the Anglo-Saxons. The old poem says<sup>s</sup> further,

|                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| "Mores brutales Britonum  | The brutal manners of the Britons     |
| Iam ex convictu Saxonum   | Now from intercourse with the Saxons, |
| Commutantur in melius     | Are changed for the better            |
| Ut patet luce clarius     | As is clearer than light,             |
| Hortos et Agros excolunt  | They cultivate fields and gardens     |
| Ad oppida se conferunt."§ | They betake themselves to towns.      |

The Bishops, of course followed the line of policy, practised by the Kings; and a church was built at Ross, before the Norman Invasion, for a priest is mentioned in Domesday. Previous to giving the extract, it is proper to premise, that in ancient husbandry, nearly all the land was arable and open, there being only a few inclosures about the houses. A large common was set apart for the working animals and cattle. This at Ross still exists.

The account in Domesday book is as follows.

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§ Ibid.



## BROMESECH HUNDRED.

In Rosse sunt septem hidæ geldabiles. In dominio est una carucata et alia posset esse. Ibi xviii villani et sex bordarii et Presbyter cum xxiii carucatis. Ibi tres servi, et molendinum de sex solidis et octo denariis et xvi acræ prati. Silva est in defensu Regis. Villani reddunt xviii sol. de censu.

In Rosse are seven hides geldable. In demesn is one carucate and there might be another. There are eighteen villains and six bordars, and a Priest with twenty-three carucates. There are three serfs, and a mill of six shillings and eight pence, and sixteen acres of meadow. There is a wood in the King's fence. The villains pay eighteen shillings rent.

In Walecford sunt septem hidæ geldabiles. In dominio est una carucata: et adhuc duo possunt esse. Ibi sex villani et quatuor bordarii, cum quinque carucatis. Ibi xiv acræ prati et tres haiæ. Villani reddunt x s pro wastâ terrâ.

In Walecford are seven hides geldable. In demesn is a carucate and two more may be added. There are six villains, and four bordars, with five carucates. There are fourteen acres of meadow, and three haiæ. The villains pay ten shillings for the waste land.

Hæc tria maneria Wal- These three Manors Wal-  
forde et Rosse, et Up- forde, Rosse, and Up-  
tune appreciata sunt xiv. tune, were valued at  
lib.\* fourteen pounds.

This account gives the state of Ross under the reign of Edward the Confessor, who introduced the Norman fashion of dividing lands into Manors. There was not a single freeholder in the place, there being very few small properties, in this æra. § The occupiers of the lands were eighteen farmers, who paid their rents in kind and services jointly; and six cottagers, who furnished poultry, eggs, &c. and a Priest with a large endowment, the present Rectory Manor.

There were three serfs, or slaves, subject to the arbitrary disposition of the Lord, who gave them what he pleased; a mill, rented at about twenty shillings of our modern money; and sixteen acres of meadow. There was a wood within the King's fence, [the chase thus described because, annexed to the royal purlieu of Penyard.] The farmers paid fifty-four shillings modern money, rent or tribute†

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\* Dugdale's Monast. Eccl. Cathedr. iii. 182, 183. 1st. Edit.

§ Smyth's Berkeleys M. S. p. 32.

† *Census* is a very indefinite term, meaning rent in kind, &c. See Ducange *in voce*.

In Walford were about seventeen hundred acres, subject to the tax, called Danegelt. In demesne, or direct occupation of the Lord, and cultivated by four bordars or cottagers were from forty to fifty acres, and eighty or ninety more might be added. There were six farmers, who paid rents in kind and services; who with four cottagers, occupied rather more than two hundred acres. There were fourteen acres of meadow, and three inclosures of wood.\* The farmers paid thirty shillings modern money for the waste.

From this record it is deducible, that Ross was not a walled town, or place of defence, otherwise it would have been stiled *Burgum*; that the number of families was twenty-five; which, reckoning five to a house, makes a population of one hundred and twenty-five souls; that the villains or farmers with their families did, in the main, their own work, the bordars or cottagers being

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\* The term *Hata* in the Glossaries means a hedge, park, inclosure, &c. but it some times had a much more extensive meaning; for Hugh de Kilpeck held the Manor of Little Taynton in Gloucestershire, by the service of keeping the *Haia* of Hereford "which was a great woodland ground near the city, and heretofore reputed a forest." M. S. Parsons in bibl. Bodl. p. 153.

chiefly attached to the demesne,\* that, of the arable land in cultivation, there were between twenty-one and twenty-two acres per head, which at the product of ten bushels only per acre of wheat, gave to every inhabitant, an income of two hundred and ten bushels per annum, equivalent in modern money to £126 — Thus we need not be surprised at the accounts of ancient hospitality, when the farmers and their families, by doing their own work, were at no expence for labour; and so scanty a population occasioned no high price of provisions.

At Walford, there were no more than ten families, which, at five each, makes only fifty souls: who occupied two thousand acres, or thereabouts in a state of tillage, the *enclosed* grass land being only fourteen acres. For Domesday does not mention pasture land, only meadow and arable.† This computation leaves to every inhabitant forty acres per head, or in modern money at the product of ten

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\* At Elwias in this county, the Bordars worked one day in the week, (Domesday.) They were an intermediate rank between Villains and Serfs,

† By noticing this circumstance, and comparing the size of the parish with the Domesday account, the author has frequently found that the proportion between arable and pasture has in many places, remained stationary to this day.

bushels of wheat per acre, and 10s. a bushel price, £250 per annum. The farmers also paid rent for the waste. Not only, as before observed, was such land used for pasturing the working and provisionary animals, but, before the legal institution of poor rates, they were applied in aid of the voluntary collections, gathered on Sundays and Festival times by the churchwardens and their wives.\* Thus at Ebberton in Gloucestershire, “ten Cows, *which the poor were to milk*, commoned on the free estate, belonging to Sir W. Keyt.”†

The preceding remarks are made upon a rough scale, no other in reality being possible, from such a census as Domesday and the amount of the Hides and Carucates: but in the main, it will be found not far from the fact.

They who are desirous of a nicer calculation may see it in the following Table, exhibiting in the year 1050, the prices of various necessities in sterling money; and also in Decimals, with the Depreciation of the value of money inferred therefrom. To which is added the mean appreciation of money, according to intervals of 50 Years, deduced by interpolation. §

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\* Lysons's Envir. i. 226. 310. † M. S. Parsons in Bibl. Bodl.

§ This table is copied from Ruding's Annals of the Coinage, i. p. 259, 260.

| Year<br>of our<br>Lord | Wheat<br>per<br>Bushel. | Horse.   | Ox.      | Cow.     | Sheep.   | Hog.     | Mean de-<br>preciation<br>of these<br>articles. | Depreciation of<br>Money according<br>to the Price of |                                            |      | Mean appre-<br>ciation by<br>interpolation |    |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------|----|
|                        | L. s. D.                | L. s. D. | L. s. D. | L. s. D. | L. s. D. | L. s. D. |                                                 | Wheat                                                 | Miscellaneous<br>articles of all<br>kinds. | Meat | A. D.                                      |    |
| 1050.                  | 0 0 2½                  | 1 17 6   | 0 7 6    | 0 6 0    | 0 1 3    | 0 2 0    | 42                                              | 10                                                    | 43                                         | 20   | 1056                                       | 26 |

\* Decimals.

The Domesday statement also shows, that Ross and the Vicinity were in a very fair state of cultivation at the period of the Conquest, an effect, no doubt, in great part of the Roman occupation of Aricon. Cæsar says, that the Maritime countries consisted chiefly of Agriculturists, while the inlanders principally subsisted on meat and milk, a state of things, which existed, in some places, till the days of Elizabeth. Dr. Bulleyn, who lived in that age, observes in his chapter of milk, that in *Wales*, Suffolk, Essex, and especially about *Alston Moor*, among the mountains in *Durham*, *where there is little tillage, and so much bringing up of cattle*, the people are all chiefly nourished with milk, and use little of any other drink.\* But the Romans not only oppressed the Britons with the sword, but with the whip,§ reduced them to the most abject submission,† and made them rear corn

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\* Book of Simples, fol. 84. quoted in Biogr. Brit. iii. 2. Ed. 2

§ Gildas in xv. Scriptor. p. 4. Tacit. Agric.

† The Saxon Conquest was owing to this enervating policy. The Romans draughted the British youth into foreign service, and suffered no others to learn the use of arms. They carried this policy to such extent, that the inhabitants of the Balearic Isles petitioned Augustus to send them an army, in order to destroy a host of Hares and Rabbits, which threatened to consume their harvest. See *Plin. N. H. &c. viii. c. 55.* and Dr. Robinson, observes (*View of the State of Europe, Note v.*) that Spain and Africa once very brave nations were, so entirely enervated by subjection to the Romans, that a small army of Vandals subdued them in a short time.

for the *Annona* or tribute; compelled them to bring it in, and often made them in mockery sit before the *Granaries*, buy the corn back again, or cart it away to a greater distance, where it would bring more money; for which reason the bye-ways and distances were carefully marked out.\*

The other existing memorials (not earthworks) of the æras just discussed, are relicks of superstition chiefly in their origin, both Pagan and Druidical. The Benedictine editors of *Du Cange* notices customs of the Rustics of Picardy, to which they can find no clue, from written authority, and therefore ascribe them to Druidism;† and the *Delphin Annotators* of *Cæsar*, upon the passage, which notes the addiction of Gaul, where the established religion was Druidism, to superstition, quote *Cicero*, for the addition, that this nation despised all others systems.§

“The original of ancient customs, says *Johnson*, is commonly unknown; for the practice often continues, when the cause has ceased; and concerning superstitious ceremonies, it is vain to conjecture; for what reason did not dictate, reason cannot explain.” The attempt here made to illustrate them: of course goes not beyond obvious analogies.

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\* *Tacit. Agric.—Cicer. in Verr.—Lipsius, &c.*

† v. *Apotelesmata.*

§ *L. vi. c. 15.*



*New Christmas Day, and the first Monday in the year.*—A woman must not come first into the house, otherwise there will be no luck throughout the year. Janus observes in Ovid, that, “Omens attach to the beginning of all things:”§ and Philosophers know, that when the mind is strongly agitated by hope or fear, it naturally speculates in the future, and has a sensitive irritability, which warps events to the prevailing idea. But *occursacula*, i. e. presages from objects first met upon going abroad, were the subjects of particular books, written by Hippocrates (not the Physician) and Pollos. It was very unlucky to meet a lame or blind man, Eunuch, Ape, &c. and more especially the animal called *Galé*, whether it signified a weazle or cat, because says Artemidorus, it typifies a crafty bad-mannered woman,† and the term “old cat” is still contemptuously applied to ancient ill-natured females. In the north of England, it is customary, when a child is taken to church to be christened, to engage a little boy to meet the infant, upon leaving the house, because it is deemed an unlucky omen, to encounter a

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§ “Omina principiis inquit inesse solent” Fasti. i. lin. 178.

† Casaub. in Theophrast. p. 290. See too the Scholiast on the Birds of Aristophanes, Lucian, and others, concerning the *Occursacula*.

female first, for which service the boy receives a small present of a cake and *Cheese*,† wrapped in paper. On the first day of the year, it is also deemed very unfortunate, for a woman to enter the house first; and therefore an enquiry is mostly made, whether a male has previously been there. It is certain that among all the northern nations, women were supposed to be endowed with a prophetic spirit, more or less, according to their age|| and a tall Celtic woman and female Druid, severally met Drusus and Alexander Severus, and prophesied the death of each.§ When Maximinus met a woman with disshevelled hair and mourning habit, it was deemed an omen of his death:¶ and among the ancient Scots, if a woman bare-foot crossed a road, before them, they seized her and drew blood from her forehead, as a charm against the omen.‡ The women had too such enormous influence and authority among the Celts, that they excited the jealousy of the Druids, who

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† Rous (Archæolog. Attic. p. 212.) mentions from Athenæus, c. 2. "toasted pieces of Chersonesus *Cheese*, as common presents of the Greeks at the feast of naming their children."

|| Univ. Hist. vi. p. 67. not c. from Keysler.

§ Lampridius and Xiphiline in Hist. Aug. ii. 222. iii. 203.

¶ Capitolin. in Id. ii. 232.

‡ Antiquit. Vulgar. p. 101. Ed. Brand.

und means to impose a check upon them.\* Whether this superstition formed one of these means, or not, the Primitive Christians would not op it, for; in consequence of the Fall of Man, ey denominated the Fair Sex, Gates of the evil, resigners of the Tree of Life, and first sesters of the Divine Law.§ The only notice this occursaculum in the Popular Antiquities confined to the Churching of Women.†

*Old Christmas Day.* No person must borrow e, but purchase it, with some trifle, or other, r instance, a pin. A woman must not enter the use on this day. The restriction concerning the re, lasts during the twelve days. The Druids nsecrated a solemn fire, from which that of all ivate houses was supplied. They extinguished the other fires in the district till the tithes re paid, nor till this was done, could the fires rekindled.|| As to the Pin, Welch women still ort to a spring, called Nell's Point, on Holy ursday, and drop pins into it for offerings.¶ The nslation of this custom to Old Christmas Day, e Epiphany, when the fire might represent the

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\* Univ. Hist. xviii. 563.

ertullian p. 170. Ed. Rigalt "De cultu Feminarum."

† ii. p. 11.

borlase's Cornwall, p. 130.—Martin's Shetland isles.—  
de Valancey in Collect. Reb. Hybern N. ii. 64, 65. 105.

¶ Hoare's Giraldus, i. 133.

star, which guided the Magi; and be purchased in allusion to their offerings, is a very fair substitute, for the following reasons: "It was an auncient ordinaunce, that noo man sholde come to God, ne to the Kyng with a voyde honde, but that he brought some gyfte."† That the purchase of the Fire should last for the twelve days is also analogous to ancient customs; for the observation of twelve days was connected with the Saturnalia; and Hospinian says, that at Rome on New Year's Day, no one would suffer a neighbour to take fire out of his house, or any thing of iron, or lend any thing. It was a Heathen custom.||

On Twelfth Day also they make twelve Fires of straw, one large one to burn the old witch. They sing, drink and dance¶ around it. Without this festival, they think, that they should have no crop.‡ On the same day in Ireland,

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† Golden Legend, fol. viii. a.

|| Brand's Popular Antiquities, i. p. 11.

¶ ————— neque ante  
Falcem maturis quisquam supponat aristis  
Quam Cererci tortâ redimitus tempora quercu  
*Det motus incompósitos, et carmina dicât.*

Virg. Georg. L. l. v. 347. seq.

‡ Sementivæ dies, were feasts after seed-times on no stated days.

they set up as high as they can, a sieve of oats, and in it a dozen candles, and in the centre one larger, all lighted. This is done in memory of our Saviour, and his Apostles, lights of the world.\*

This custom had its origin in a jumble of the Druidical Beltine and the Roman Cerealia, and Palilia; the great light to burn the witch seemingly referring to Samhan, or Balsab, the Druidical God of Death. To return,

“After the fires are lit, the attendants, headed by the master of the family, pledge the company in old cyder, which circulates freely on these occasions. A circle is formed round the large fire, when a general shout and hallooing takes place, which you hear answered from all the adjacent villages and fields.”†

The Northern nations on addressing their rural deities, emptied on every invocation a cup in their honour,§ The hallooing is the “*Cerere clamore vocent in tecta*” [Calling Ceres into the House] of Virgil, of which the Delphin Annotator observes,

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\* Collect. Reb. Hybern. N. i. p. 124.

† Popular Antiquities, i. p. 29.

§ Mr. Pennant (Scotland, p. 91.) from Olaus Wormius.

that Ceres being a synonym for Corn, it implies a wish that there may be a good crop brought into the barns.

“This being finished in the fields, the company return home, where the good housewife and her maids are preparing a good supper. A large cake is always provided with a hole in the middle. After supper the company all attend the Bailiff or head of the oxen to the wain house, where the following particulars are observed. The Master at the head of his friends fills the cup (generally of strong ale) and stands opposite the first or finest of the oxen. He then pledges him in a curious toast. The company follow his example with all the other oxen, addressing each by his name. This being finished, the large cake is produced, and with much ceremony put on the horn of the first Ox, through the hole above-mentioned. The Ox is then tickled, to make him toss his head; if he throw the cake behind, then it is the mistress's [or female servant's] perquisite; if before, (in what is termed the *boosy*\*) the bailiff himself claims the prize. The company then returns to the house, the doors of which they find locked, till some joyful songs are sung. On their

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\* A stall, from the Anglo-Saxon *Bosg*, or *Bosig*, *Præsepe*

gaining admittance, a scene of mirth and jollity ensues, which lasts the greatest part of the night."

Thus the Popular Antiquities,\* but the invocation being omitted shall be supplied†

"Here is to you, Champion, with thy white horn"

"God send our master a good crop of corn"

"Both Wheat, Rye, and Barley, and all sorts of grain"

"If we meet this time twelvemonth we'll drink to him again"

"Thee eat thy *pouse*§ and I will drink my beer"

"And the Lord send us a happy new year."

Mr. Brand, in the excellent work quoted has not deduced the origin of this custom. It appears to be a rude draught of one of the ancient *Feræ Sementivæ*. The cake seems to have been put on the horn of the Ox, as a substitute for the crown or garland formerly used at these festivals, for Tibullus says "Loose the chains from the yokes; now the Oxen ought to stand at the full stalls with a *crowned head*.||" The cakes allude to the offerings then made to Ceres and the Earth

\* i. p. 29.

† From Rudge and Heath.

§ From the A. Sax. *posa*, scrip.

|| *Solvite vincla jugis; nunc ad præsepia debent Plena coronato stare boves capite.*

El. ii. 1. p. 112. Ed. Bas. 1502.

from their own corn,\* and "the joyous songs" are the "Carmina" of Virgil before quoted.

At Easter, the Rustics have a custom, called *Corn-showing*. Parties are made to pick out Cockle from the Wheat. Before they set out they take with them Cake, Cyder, and says my informant, *a yard* of toasted cheese. The first person, who picks the cockle from the wheat has the first kiss of the Maid, and the first slice of the Cake.

This custom is not noticed in the Popular Antiquities. It is plainly another of the *Feria Sementivæ*, as appears from the following line of Ovid."||.

"Et careant loliis oculis vitiantibus agri"

[Let the fields be stripped of eye-diseasing cockle.].

And held at the very season, prescribed by Virgil the beginning of spring:† It appears however to

\* Placentur matres frugum Tellusque Ceresque  
*Farre suo*————— Ovid Fast. i. 670.

*Buns*, according to Bryant retain the name and form of the sacred bread, which was offered to the Gods.

Popular Antiq. i. 132, 133.

|| Fast. i. 691.

† ————— Annus magnus  
Sacra refer Cereri, lætis operatus in herbis  
*Extremæ sub casura hyemis jam vere sereno.*

Georg. i. v. 339.



have been mixed with other ancient customs. The Cockle is the unhappy *Lolium* of Virgil, described as so injurious to Corn, and if mixed with the bread was thought to bring on Vertigo and Head-ache.\* Among the Romans the *Runcatio Segetum* or Corn-weeding took place in May† but the *Ferice Sementivæ*, says Ovid, had no fixed days, and April was the carousing month of the Anglo-Saxons,§ and the time of celebrating the festivals in honour of Venus, Ceres, Fortuna Virilis, and Venus Verticordia. The Roman Rustics then went out to call Ceres home, as appears by the previous quotation from Virgil, and the kissing might be in honour of Venus; indeed it was a want of courtesy, upon various occasions, not to kiss females. Henry viii, says, in Shakespeare,

“It were unmannerly to take you out  
And not to kiss you.”

The *Harvest-home* is undoubtedly derived from the worship of Ceres,|| or Vacuna,¶ represented by the Straw figure.

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\* Pintianus in Plin. p. 485 ub. pl.

† Calendar. Rusticum ap. Fleetwood p. 61.

§ From the curious Anglo-Saxon calendar in Strutt's *Horde* i. 43.

|| So Dr. Clarke. *Trav.* iii. 286.

¶ So Popul. *Antiq.* i. 441.

The *Wassailing Bowl* is the mere Grace-cup of the Greeks and Romans. It has nothing to do with the meeting of Vortigern and Rowena for it is mentioned by Plautus, and occurs in France. The Anglo-Saxons however much liked it, for they introduced the custom of hard-drinking.\*

*May-poles* are still erected, but the *May-games*, the Roman *Floralia* anciently celebrated, even in this country, according to Ovid's† description of them, are utterly lost, tippling and holiday idleness excepted.

The *Morris dance*, kept up with great spirit, is deduced by Strutt, with probability, from the Fools dance at Christmas, part of the ancient Feast of Fools and Saturnalia;§ at least no better origin is assigned; and Mr. Douce, who has very deeply investigated the subject admits a connexion with the Pyrrhic dance.

The young peasantry have been known to adopt the idle classical superstition of Love-Philtres or Powders. What these were, Gay mentions in his *Shepherd's week*:

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\* *Archæologia* xi. 419, 420. Seld. not on Drayton's *Polyolb.* Song ix.

† *Scena joci morem liberioris habet.* Fast. iv. 946:  
[The sport is carried to licentious lengths.]

§ *Sports, &c.* p. 171.

"These golden flies into his mug I'll throw  
And soon the swain with fervent love shall glow."

Instead of these dangerous ingredients, a humorous Chemist in the vicinity, is said to have sold *Emetics*, and cunningly watched the amorous purchasers, to enjoy the jest of the operation.

The anniversary honours and sports, described by Virgil, as celebrated at the barrow of Anchises, are also preserved. On the Wednesday in Whitsun week, there is a large meeting for festivity, held upon a great barrow, called Capel Tump. Stukeley mentions a similar convivial assembly, held on Shipley Hill, also a large tumulus.\*

*Cock-fighting* is highly in vogue, to the great vexation of Philosophers, who know how much ferocity impedes the influence of Law, Morals, and Civilization. It is said to have originated with Themistocles, who instituted annual battles, because he had seen two Cocks fighting, and thus thought that he should encourage bravery.† From hence, says Pintianus,‡ came the custom upon Shrove Tuesday of boys bringing Cocks to their masters, and under their controul, beholding the battle till dinner time, in the school, as noticed

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\* Itiner. i. 108.

† Ælian Var. Hist. ii. 28. p. 67, 68.

‡ In. Plin. p. 194.

by Strutt.\* The Cocks were fed regularly.† Cock-fights appear upon the coins of Dardania, and under the presidency of love § The battles were often fought in the presence of the God *Terminus* (a *Hermes* among the Greeks) and the Palms, destined to the Conqueror were placed upon a pedestal. Upon a coin of Athens we see a Cock, crowned with Palm.|| Polyarchus gave public funerals, and raised monuments, with Epitaphs to his Cocks.¶ The sport passed from the Greeks to the Romans; and Caracalla and Geta were great Cock-fighters.‡ Quails were sometimes fought instead of Cocks.\* A writer on the subject is mistaken in making the Gaffle, or metal spur modern. It is mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon Synod,§ and sometimes was of Brass.||

*Midlent* or *Mothering Sunday*, rigidly observed, originated in the festival, held at this season, in honour of Cybele, the mother of the Gods, transferred after the introduction of christianity to the mother church, whence it is taken up in the *Popular Antiquities*.||

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\* Gliggam. p. 210.

† Plutarch de fraternitate.

§ Stosch Gemm. Cl. ii. n. 696, 697.

|| Encycl. des Antiq.

¶ Ælian V. H. viii. 4.

‡ Pierr: grav. du Duc d' Orleans p. 172.

\* Popular Antiq. i. 479. seq.

§ Lye v. *Geaffas*.

|| Ducange v *Plectrum*.

|| British Monachism.

*Spinning and making Home-made Linen*, a custom as old as Penelope and the Grecian Heroines, is on the decline, from the superior cheapness of manufactured goods, and the introduction of Cotton. John Northbrooke, an old Puritan, who wrote in 1579 says, p. 35. "In olde time we reade, that there was usually caried before the Mayde, when she sholde be married, and came to dwell in hir husbandes house, a *Distaffe charged with flaxe and a Spynndle hanging at it*, to the intente that shee might bee mindfvl to lyve by hir labour\*.

*Singing psalms before the Corpse, on the way to the grave*, is borrowed from the Heathens.†

The *Bandy*, played by the boys is an imperfect exhibition of the Roman Paganica, and our ancient Goff.§.

The following customs appear to the author to have a Druidical origin.

A certain day, which is a whole holiday for the waggoners is fixed for cutting the staves of Goads. There certainly was a regard paid by the ancients

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\* Popular Antiq. ii. 60. † Macrobius, &c. in Id. ii. 172.

§ Strutt's Sports, p. 81.

to the age of the moon in felling their timber,\* but whether the custom alludes to this, or the Mistletoe ceremony the author knows not.

*Wild Flowers*, especially Snow-drops, brought into the house, prevent the first brood of chickens.

*St. Thomas's Day mumping*, is the going a gooding or corning, which is presumed to have a connexion with the Druidical *Hagmena*, derived from "*Au Guy l' an neuf*," i. e. To the Mistletoe this new year, or custom of going from house to house; for Paul Merula says, "The Druids were accustomed to send their young men with the Mistletoe from house to house, as a kind of present, and wish people a happy new year."†

*New Year's Gifts*. The Peasantry send about on new year's day, a small pyramid, made of leaves, apples, nuts, &c. gilt, a custom no doubt derived from the Druidical *Hagmena*, mentioned in the last article. *Collars of Mountain Ash* are put upon the necks of cattle to keep off witches. This is a pure Celtic custom. An old

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\* Popular Antiq. ii. 477.

† Popular Antiq. i. 350. seq. Bergerac, 4to 1658, p. 45. Engl. Transl. puts into the mouth of a Magician, on the continent, "I teach them to find the Mistletoe of the new year." Pref. p. xxx.

statistical Scotch account says, "They fixed branches of Mountain Ash, or narrow-leaved service tree above the stakes of their cattle to perserve them from the evil effects of Elves and Witches.\* The religion of the Britons and Germans being different, the Mistletoe is represented in the Edda, as a contemptible and mischievous plant. In the Gothic Mythology, if any tree seems to have been regarded with more particular attention than others, it is the Ash.† *Bees are not sold, and a frying-pan is beat when they are swarming.* It was a prejudice, that when Bees removed, or went away from their hives, the owner of them would die soon after; and in Devonshire, when any man made a purchase of Bees, the payment was never made in money, but in commodities, corn for instance, to the value of the sum agreed upon. And the Bees are never removed, but on a Good Friday.‖ The Tinkling of the Pan is the substitute for the invocation to the old Celtic Fairy, Brownie; for Borlase says, "The Cornish to this day invoke the spirit Brownie, when their Bees swarm; and think their crying Brownie, Brownie, will prevent their returning into their former hive, and make them pitch and form a new colony." In after ages, the Tinkling was

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\* Id. pref. xx.

† Cottle's Edda introd. p. x.

‖ Popular Antiq. ii. 202.

deemed of use to let the neighbours know that the owners had a swarm in the air, which they claimed, wherever it lighted.† The following are matters which the author ascribes to the middle ages, at least he can assign no earlier date.

The first is the singular custom, now obsolete, of *Sin-eating*.

It appears, that so late as the seventeenth century, there was in the villages, adjoining to Wales, an old man, called the Sin-eater; and his office was, for a trifling compensation to pawn his own soul for the ease and rest of the soul departed; Ellis, the editor of the *Popular Antiquities* has extracted the following curious passage from the Lansdowne Manuscripts, concerning a *Sin-eater*, who "lived in a cottage, on Rosse highway."

"In the county of Hereford was an old custom at Funerals to hire poor people, who were to take upon them the sinnes of the party deceased. One of them (he was a long, leane, ugly, lamentable poor Rascal) I remember lived in a cottage on Rosse highway. The manner was, that when the Corps was brought out of the house, and layd

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† Id. ii. 539.



on the Bière, a loafe of bread was brought out, and delivered to the Sinne-eater, over the Corps, as also a mazar bowl of maple, full of beer [which he was to drink up] and sixpence in money, in consideration whereof he took upon him, *ipso facto*, all the sinnes of the defunct, and freed him or her from walking after they were dead. This custome alludes methinks, something to the Scape-Goate in the old lawe, Levit. chap. xvi. v. 21, 22. "And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live Goate, and confesse over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the Goate, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness. And the Goate shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited; and he shall let the Goate goe into the wilderness."

This custome (though rarely used in our days) yet by some people was observed, even in the strictest time of the Presbyterian Government, as at Dynder (volens nolens the Parson of the Parish) the kindred of a woman deceased there had this ceremonie punctually performed according to her will; and also the like was done at the city of Hereford in those times, where a woman kept, many years before her death, a mazard bowle for

the Sinne-eater; and the like in other places in this countie; as also in Brecon. I believe this custom was heretofore used all over Wales.\*

The *Nine Holes* is an ancient game of which the representation is kept up, in nine holes, cut in a flat stone, or excavated in the bare ground. This table dose not accord, with the real original game.†

Formerly flowers were strewed before young couples, in their way to church. The author once saw a malicious caricature of this custom. Nose-gays of rue enclosing a piece of half-eaten bread and butter were dropt in the church-path and porch by a deserted female, in order to denote an unhappy wedding. Stephens, in his *plaine Country Bridegroom*, p. 353, says “He shews neere affinity betwixt Marriage and Hanging; and to that purpose, he provides a great Nosegay, and shakes hands with every one he meets, as if he were now preparing for a condemned man’s voyage.§

*Foot-Ball* is now the most common sport, especially on Sunday afternoons; but Strutt is mistaken

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\* Popular Antiq. ii. 156.

† Detailed in Strutt’s *Sports*, p. 237. See too Popular Antiq. ii. 297, 298.

§ Popular Antiq. ii. 48.

in saying that this game did not appear before the reign of Edw. III.\* when bitter complaints were made of its infringements upon Archery.† It is now a mere rustic game, but in the reign of James, was played by Noblemen.§

These are all the ancient superstitions and sports, which particularly distinguish the neighbourhood, known to the author.||

### To proceed with Historical Matters.

Had Ross been a walled and fortified town, the occupation of it by various contending parties would have doubtless rendered it a subject of frequent notice in English History; but being ecclesiastical property and commanded by four Castles adjacent, Eccleswall, Penyard, Goodrich, and Wilton, it appears only as a convenient post-town (as we should now call it) much used by travellers to and from South Wales.

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\* Strutt's Sports, p. 79. It is mentioned by Fitz. Stephen, who lived much earlier. Popular Antiq. i. p. 62.

† Rym. Fæd. vi. 417.      § Howell's Letters, p. 211.

|| Strutt p. 81.

We are not however to suppose, that the present road from the Metropolis through Ross, by way of Monmouth and Abergavenny was that of our ancestors. The old Roman road from the West of Gloucestershire and part of South Wales to London, leading through Cirencester, Cricklade, and Wallingford was the great highway in use till King Henry V. built a bridge at Abingdon, and the roads about that town were greatly repaired.\* The route was then changed in the following direction, as appears by an old scarce black letter book of the date of James I.

From St. David's to Hereford, and Gloucester and so to London, 210 miles.

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\* Rudder's Gloucestershire, p. 518.

From St. David's, goe to ARFORD, twelves miles.

DISTANCE  
FROM LONDON.

| THENCE TO        |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Carmarthen.....  | 24...174 |
| Newton.....      | 12...162 |
| Lanbury.....     | 10...152 |
| Brecknock.....   | 16...136 |
| Hay.....         | 10...126 |
| Hereford.....    | 14...112 |
| *ROSIE (sic).... | 19...93  |
| Glocester.....   | 12...81  |
| Cicester.....    | 15...66  |

DISTANCE  
FROM LONDON.

| THENCE TO        |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Farington.....   | 10...56 |
| Abington.....    | 10...46 |
| Dorchester.....  | 5...41  |
| Henley.....      | 12...29 |
| Maidenhead.....  | 7...22  |
| Colebrooke ..... | 7...15  |
| Hounslow .....   | 5...10  |
| London .....     | 10      |

Thus Ross was then nineteen computed miles from Hereford.†

\* In p. 176. it is spelt Rose. As Ariconium was called Rose Town, the term *Rosie*, corroborates the tradition, that Rose rose out of the ruins of Ariconium.

† Hopton's Concordance of Yeares, p. 209.

As a Post-town, Ross first appears in the year 1131. Robert de Betun, Prior of Lanthony in Wales, was elected in that year, Bishop of Hereford; and Ross was the termination of his first day's journey: "Ross, says William of Wycomb in his Life of this Prelate, offered the first mansion to us travellers.\* The state of cultivation, in which the country was at that time, is strongly indicative of the effect of the Roman Settlement in the Neighbourhood. The Biographer describes the country between Ross and Gloucester, as on the north a plain, on the south a wood, i. e. the Forest of Dean.

Though the Manor of Ross was in the See of Hereford, yet the political power of the whole district was vested in certain great Barons. At this time Pain Fitz-John and Milo, Earl of Hereford, had occupied all the towns belonging to the church of Hereford; and though the Bishop was restored to them for a short time; yet in the years 1138, and 1139, when the war broke out between Stephen and the Empress Maud, all the houses and estates of the Bishop were seized by the great Barons, chiefly Earl Milo.† Nor had the

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\* *Prinam mansionem viantibus Rossa obtulit.* Angl. Sacr. ii. 305.

† *Id.* ii. 313.

subsequent Bishops any power to influence political acts of moment. In 1165 William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke held Goodrich Castle, and sixty-five knight's fees, belonging to the honour of Chepstow;\* and this family had the supremacy of the whole neighbourhood, for Henry III. was enabled to be crowned at Gloucester, because a succeeding William Marshall had the command of the whole country *from Ross to Chepstow*.†

Robert de Betun, at that time, Bishop of Hereford, was an exemplary character, according to the philosophy of the times i. e. personal austerity and mortification, united with official action upon public principles. Clergymen then lived themselves, upon fish without sauce, and gave to the Laity, as much beef and mutton, as they liked; because common sense was a crime in a saint, but none in a sinner. Still however solemn nonsense was the only possible means of biassing the ignorant Laity; and public spirit, in every civil direction, was confined to the Clergy.

Robert de Betun knew the barbarous state of the country, for he had travelled over bridges, which had broken down under him, and plunged

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\* Lib. Nig. Scacc. i, 160.    † Decem Scriptores col. 2429.

him in the water; and wished to have relieved a poor female traveller, who had died for fear of her child, being devoured by the wolves.\*

Ross therefore, being cleared by the iron-works at Ariconium, and the vicinity; and being previously at least, a village, with a parish church, occupied by occasional residence of the Bishops, the good Prelate obtained from King Stephen, a market weekly on Thursday.† When the clergy were unmarried, they had no fortunes to make for families, and instead of accumulating riches, or monied capital, (the greatest possible advantage to the landed interest and governmental necessities) expended their money upon buildings and other works, which, as making no productive return, should have been shared by common loss, or repaid by tolls, and rates. Rose or Ross, for it is called by tradition, *Rose Town*,§ had been commenced at the Brook-end, from the Ruins of Ariconium, in the Anglo-Saxon æra, and the Bishop (as presumed) had a residence at the spot,

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\* Angl. Sacr. ii. 311.

† Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.

§ In the *Explanatio Vocum Geographicarum* annexed to Leland's *Commentary de Scriptoribus* published in 1709, is the following article "*Rosina Vallis*, the Vale of *Rosse*, in agro Pembrochiens.



where Chest's Mill, now stands.\* When the old Church of Ross was destroyed, as presumed, in the wars of Stephen, (of which hereafter) this worthy Bishop is supposed, upon good grounds, to have commenced the foundation of the present Church, and the Episcopal Palace in the Prospect-field adjacent. It has been before said, that this Palace was probably a *Foleia*, or Summer-house; and this is more likely because, in Herefordshire, one of the Military tenants of Adam de Port in 1150, was denominated Richard *of the Folly*. (Ricardus de la Folie.)† From this time, to use the words of the ancient people, the town crept gradually up the hill.

This Pleasure-House of the Bishop's stood in the north end of the Prospect. It was for the most part a timber building, and had a large Gateway and Porter's Lodge, annexed to it, at the principal entrance, which was between the Pounds House, and the Prospect. The Pounds House itself was part of the out-buildings. Some Ruins of the Mansion were remaining, till near the close of the seventeenth century; and suggested the plan of a building with wings, fronting the north and west, having a large hall, and a

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\* Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins. † Lib. Nig. Scacc. i. 151.

room eastwards, more perfect, than the rest, with remains in that room of wood and stone sculpture, in handsome old style, partly painted and gilt. South of this, in the inclosure was a Dovecote of curious appearance\*

There was also a Prison† belonging to the Bishops, ecclesiastical or feudal jurisdiction or both. It stood at the top of the Old or Low Town, and at the bottom of the New or High Town; near the lower corner of Mr. Amos Jones's house, now occupied by Mr. Merrick, a wool-stapler. It was a small round building with a dungeon. The stone work of it was but little above ground, and the upper part was timber. It was standing so lately, as between three and four score years past, when being greatly decayed and dangerous, it was pulled down altogether.§ The original form of this building may be seen with almost the assurance of Fac-Simile, in the wood cuts, published by Mr. Douce, in his Illustrations of Shakspeare. There the round stone work below forms a cage, and the upper wooden work, a circular pillory. Fabrics of this sort, a cage at bottom and pillory at top were to be seen but a few years back in various country-towns.

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\* Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.      † Gough's Camden.

§ Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.

Another ancient appendage of the Town was the Cross at the junction of the four Roads, called Cob's Cross, a corruption of Corpus Christi Cross. There were various crosses annexed to most towns, all of which had one general object, that of being a check upon a worldly spirit. The particular intention of erecting crosses on the high roads was for stations, when the ways were visited in processions, for halting places in the conveyance of corpses to interment, and for calling the thoughts of the passenger to a sense of religion, and to restrain the predatory incursions of robbers.\* The distinguishing appellation of Corpus Christi Cross might arise from other circumstances, viz. a figure of Christ crucified, at the top of the cross. In the Wood-Cuts of Barclay's Ship of Fooles,† is such a one of wood, with Christ on the Cross, under a Pentice, and a large arm and hand, issuing from the side, as an index to the road. It might also derive its name from the performance here of the annual Corpus Christi pageant. This was a festival instituted by Urban IV. and consisted of a play, which lasted eight days, and treated every subject in scripture from the creation. The actors

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\* Britton on Stone Crosses, p. 30. 32. in Architect  
Antiquities.

† Fol. 31.

re-the tradesmen of the towns. It was abolished  
James I.\*

There is every reason to think, that there was  
ciently one, if not more, good Inns in Ross.  
at was assuredly of some consideration, where  
enry of Bolingbroke afterwards Henry IV. slept  
his way to Monmouth, through Goodrich. It  
re the sign of the Griffin; and stood, where is  
w Mr. Cope's, a Grocer, and the back part of  
running into the church lane was afterwards  
own by the sign of the Rose and Crown.†

The *Market House*, a building in very bad  
yle was erected, in the reign of James I. by  
ohn Abel,§ probably it occupies the site of a  
ceding cluster of booths and shambles.

Ecclesiastical Antiquities will be mentioned  
ewhere.

If Ross be thus poor in ancient remains it is  
t less so in Historical incidents. Except the  
fling circumstances of Henry IV. twice sleeping

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See Coryatt's Crudities, i. 36 Gold. Leg. xxiii. Strutt's  
iggam. 118. Weever's Funer. Monum. 405. Ed. fol.  
chæol. Libr. i. 161. Phillip's Shrewsbury, 202. et alior.  
Inform, Mr. T. Jenkins. § Nicholson, col. 1151

here, once as before mentioned, the next time in 1399,\* when the King was on his road to Hereford; nothing occurs, till the commencement of the Civil wars in the time of Charles I. It will render the paragraphs more interesting to state a short account of the parties mentioned.

Colonel Min was a noble character, killed in his Majesty's service, and ancestor to the Ladies of the Rev. Thomas Underwood, Rector of Ross, and Richard Evans, M. D. of the same place.

Sir John Winter was a Papist, but a zealous friend of the Monarchy, and killed also in the service.

Colonel Massie was the Governor of Gloucester, and very highly celebrated for his Military Talents.

Sir William Waller lay at *Rosse*, upon Sunday night; on Tuesday morning he marched to *Goodrich Castle*, from thence intending to goe for Monmouth or Ragland Castle. *Mercurius Anlicus*, April, 2—9.

Col. Min (Anno 1644) upon the advance of the enemy to seek him out, falling back from

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\* Holinshed ii. 855.

Newent, hastened to Ross, where he began to fortify the Church with his own, and Sir John Winter's Regiments.†

A party of the rebel forces, [from Gloucester] marched towards Ross to prevent the joining of Col. Min (now made Commander in chief in the room of Sir William Vavasour) with Sir John Winter and the Welch forces, as also to raise money for the garrison, out of the remoter parts; to enlarge their own quarters, engage the country with them, or to lie ready for all occasions of service. There (i. e. at Ross) their Horse and Foot arrived, with two pieces of Ordnance, and found Wilton Bridge guarded by Captain Cassie, and thirty Musketeers from Gudridge Castle: a party of their Horse advanced upon the guard, forced the River, and got beyond them; after some dispute beat them off, wounded and took the Captain, slew many of his men, and took the rest in the chase almost up to the Castle [of Gudridge.] The Rebels rested here [at Ross] a few days, and summoned the country to appear, it being their governor's (Massey's) constant endeavour to add daily, friends unto the parliament, and to put the country into such a posture, that upon all alarms,

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† Corbett's Military Government of Gloucester p. 86.

they might gather to an head, &c. and hereupon many came in and declared themselves, by taking the covenant. Whilst the engagement of the country was thus prosecuted, some emergent occasions called the governor to Gloucester, wherefore he drew from Rosse without delay.\*

Col. Min, together with Sir John Winter's forces, taking advantage of the rebels' weakness, advanced from Ross, (where he quartered his Regiment) within a half a mile of the city of Gloucester, drove away the country cattle and took the persons of many.†

Massie with his forces, marching to the relief of Pembridge Castle, passed through Ross, but found [Wilton] Bridge broken down, and the river made unpassable, by the sinking of boats on the other side, and a guard of Horse to defend it. Here was a dispute for two days, and Massie's object failed.§

[The Bridge was broken on the Wilton side, a measure ascribed to William Rudhall (the erect man in Ross church.) The rebuilt arch is very distinguishable.]

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\* Id. p. 90.    † Id. 100.    § Id. 118.

Col. Massie tampering with the country people, drew back to Ross, and after expostulating (as seems) with the parliamentary committee on the state of his forces, marched from Ross and passed the Severne towards Berkeley, purposing to join with Sir William Waller.\*

The unfortunate Charles I. slept here in 1645, on his way from Ragland Castle: not at the same house as Henry IV. but at Gabriel Hill's Great Inn, on the opposite side of the Church Lane. The old chamber, where he slept, (now divided into two) was a few years since publicly identified by a procession of the Blue-Coat School. This room, not the other, is the real "King's Chamber" of Gough's Camden. A small piece of the oak bedstead on which the poor King is reported to have lain, is preserved at the School-House.

At the Restoration the loyalty of the town was thus celebrated.

*Ross, June 1st.*

"Upon Wednesday being the happy day of his *Majestie's* birth, as well as of his and the Common Prayer books restoration, the most and most considerable persons in Ross in Herefordshire, thought

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\* Id. 129.



it not enough to celebrate the day with praise and prayer, as well as a sermon, but to express their inward joy of heart the better, they caused a face of wood to be cut, which being dressed with a long mantle and a cape, with the *solemn league and covenant* upon his breast, was carried on a pole by a chimney-sweeper, (instead of a hangman) dressed in his holyday apparel, that is, as black as could be; two of the same quality, carried up his train, and in this triumphant manner, after evening prayer he was solemnly carried quite through the town, the drummer and guard of Musqueteers, besides the pike-men, attending him; till at last he was brought to the market place, fixed in the ground, the *covenant* having this inscription :

“Who set three kingdoms on a flame,  
 “’Tis just, should perish by the same.”

and so burned to ashes, with acclamations of great joy, not easily to be paralleled, and that nothing might be wanting to shew their detestation to that foul murdering oath, because *Jonathan Smith*\* the Thrum Vicar, sometime an apprentice in Canterbury to a Tailor, and afterwards a broken Draper

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\* Of him, see *Incumbents*.

or Stocking-seller at *Sandwitch*, upon the day of his Majestie's unhappy loss and danger at Worcester, did celebrate the memory of it with cake and ale, some of the spear-men with a cake at the spears end, held up the wood to this pernicious oath, till that and the head to which it was fitted were burned to ashes, and all this to shew their affection to his *Majesty* and the ecclesiastical government, under which they and their ancestors lived so happily, to God's glory and their own comfort." *Mercurius Publicus*, May 30,—June 6, 1661.

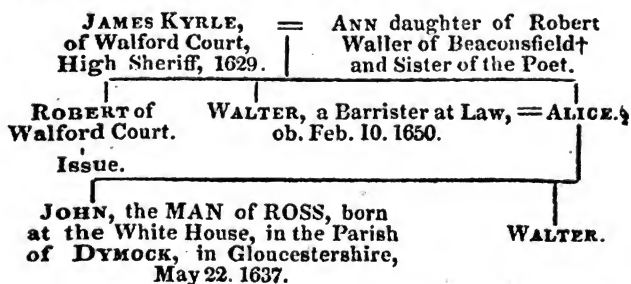


## The Man of Ross.

REI BONÆ VEL VESTIGIA DELECTANT

PHÆDRUS.

The family of CRUL appear to have been settled in the neighbourhood of Ross, as early as the thirteenth century; but the Pedigree is not connected, and as communicated to Heath,\* is manifestly most unsatisfactory; for instance WALTER CRULL of the HULL, mentioned in 1485, is apprehended to be father of two sons, WALTER and JAMES, born in the reign of King Henry VII. [i. e. between 1485, and 1509] which JAMES was notwithstanding High Sheriff of the county in 1629; and if so, must have been at least 120 years old!—The following part of it may be correct.



\* p. 17.

† Her mother was sister to the famous John Hampden.

‡ Daughter and heiress of John Mallet of Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, ob. Mar. 24. 1662. according to the pedigree in Heath; she had been successively widow of Walter Carwardine, and Giles Winton.

It is most certain, that Bevington, a farm in the parish of Berkeley did descend after the death of John Mallet, to Alice his daughter and heir, expressly said by Mr. Smyth to be wife of WALTER KYRLE, Esq.\* This estate was bought, it is said, of the Man of Ross, by the family of Hicks of Berkeley.

The origin from *Crull*, has also been thrown into doubt, by the following remark of Mr. Dallaway, (very high authority) who says "This family originally from Flanders, obtained a settlement in Herefordshire, during the reign of King Henry VII. (1485) and changed their paternal name from *Crilles* to Kyrle.†" The best method of showing the union or distinction of ancient families of similar name, is by the Heraldry; and by this it will appear, that both the accounts are right.

There were at least two early families of the name of *Crull*, not at all related.

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\* Berkeley Chief Rents M. S. penes the late William Veele, Esq. fol. 18. In Berkeley Church-yard is a Memorial for William *Kyrle*, of Upper Wick in that parish, who died 23. Nov. 1770 æt. 60, and Mary his wife, who died 10. Jan. 1784 æt. 72. Bigland's Gloucestershire i. 173.

† Quoted by Heath.

## ONE FAMILY BORE.

1. Per. Chevron Azure and Gules Three Eagles Arg. armed Gules for *Crull*.

|                      |      |   |                       |
|----------------------|------|---|-----------------------|
| 2. Azure Three Doves | Or   | } | <i>Crule</i>          |
| Arg.                 | Arg. |   | or<br><i>Cruell</i> . |

3. Or Three Eagles displ. Sable. *Kirhele-Kirkhill*  
Here the Birds show the identity of this family, which had no connection with that of the Man of Ross.

The Coats of the other *Crulls*, will show the certain consanguinity between *Crull*, *Criell*, or *Crill*, and *Kyrle*.

|                                                          |   |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Vert on a chevr. Arg. Three Cinquefoils Gules.        | } | <i>Crull</i> . |
| 2. Az. a chev. Gul. betw. Three Cinquefoils pierced Arg. |   |                |
| 3. Az. on chevr. Or. Three Cinquefoils pierced Gules.    |   |                |

|                                                                                 |   |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 4. Sab. on a fess, between Three Fleurs de lis arg. Three Mullets of the first. | } | <i>Criel</i>         |
|                                                                                 |   | or<br><i>Crill</i> . |

|                                                                                      |   |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 5. Vert on a chevron Or betw. Three Fleurs de lis of the second, a Cinquefoil Gules. | } | <i>Kerle</i> . |
|                                                                                      |   |                |

|                                                    |   |              |
|----------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 6. Azure a chevron between Three Fleurs de lis Or. | } | <i>Kyrle</i> |
|                                                    |   |              |

Here the Bearings are customary family variations, and show the progress of the name from *Crull* to *Criel*, or *Crill*, and thence to *Kerle* and *Kyrle*; the Cinquefoils disappearing with *Kerle*.

There was a third family of Kyrell, or Kyriell, who bore bars or bends with a Canton, not related to either of the preceding.

JOHN KYRLE Esq. [The MAN of Ross] who was intended for the Bar, was entered a Gentleman Commoner of Baliol College, Oxford, Apr. 21. 1654. On his admission he presented a piece of plate to the College, with a promise, that when any person gave a better, he would enlarge his present. It seems, that this promise was afterwards fulfilled; for it appears upon record, that this plate in 1654 weighed 18oz. 10dwts. and in 1670 was improved to 61oz. 10dwts.; and this, it is presumed, is the Tankard still in use there.\*

He was sometime in the commission of the peace, but declined acting. His property in Ross, was, at first, little more than his dwelling house, and a few pieces of land, which his Father had purchased of one Fecknam. To this possession he repeatedly added by purchases, made after his fallages in Dymock Wood.

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\* Rudge's Abridged Gloucestershire i. civ.

About a Century and a half ago, he built the house, where Mr. James, the Grocer, now lives; and, in digging in an adjoining passage, the skeleton of a Man was found *in the Rock*; a curious circumstance, *for it may* denote that here was once a British place of Burial; and a British Villa in the vale beneath.\*

In his person rather tall—thin—and well shaped; he enjoyed remarkable health, till within a short period of his dissolution.

His usual dress was a suit of brown Dittos, and a King William's wig, all in the costume of his day. He declined much company, except in the present custom of dinnering his friends upon the Market and Fair-days. This is to be understood—of *set* company, or *formal visiting*; for, in another view, he may be said to have kept a constant public table, there being scarcely a day, but some one or other called and dined with him. He was, indeed, particularly pleased with his neighbours dropping in.—Loved a long evening,—enjoyed a merry tale,—and appeared always discomposed when 'twas time to part. Thus Mr. Jenkins. In the Popular Antiquities, the following anecdote is told.

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\* The Celtic Britons had houses in vallies, and family barrows or burial places, on the sides of the eminences above, a custom still existing in Scotland.\*

Our Ancestors, when they found a difficulty in carving a *Goose*, Hare, or other dish, used to say, jestingly that they should hit the joint, if they could think on the name of a cuckold. The explanation is thus given : Thomas Webb, a Carver to a Lord Mayor of London, in C. 1st. reign, was famous for being a cuckold, as well as for his dexterity in carving; therefore, what became a proverb was used first, as an invocation, when any body took upon him to carve—Mr. KYRLE had always company to dine with him on a Market day, and a Goose, if it could be procured, was one of the dishes, which he claimed the privilege of carving himself. When any Guest, ignorant of the etiquette of the table, offered to save him that trouble, he would exclaim, “Hold your hand, Man, if I am good for any thing, it is for hitting cuckold’s joints. Geese are still favourite dishes.\*

The number he chose at his invitation dinners was nine, eleven, or thirteen, including himself and his kinswoman, Miss Bubb; and he never cared to sit down to table, on such occasions, till he had as many as made one of those numbers. Seven is now reckoned the best number for a party. More divides the conversation.

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\* Popular Antiquities i. 297. ii. 118.



His dishes were generally plain, and according to the season. Malt liquor and cider were the only beverage introduced, and there was no roast beef in his house, throughout the year, but on a Christmas day. At his kitchen fire-place was a large block of wood for poor people to sit on, and a piece of boiled beef, and three pecks of flour, in bread, were given to the poor every Sunday.

His *hobby*, namely, Horticulture and Planting, was truly Silurian; and in all respects, he was a genuine Herefordshire Man. "With a spade on his shoulder, and a glass bottle of liquor in his hand, he used to walk from his house (afterwards an Inn, but now occupied by Mr. Brookes a Surgeon, and others,) to his fields and back again several times a day." In addition to his glass bottle and spade, may be mentioned his watering pot, which he frequently carried, and with his own hands watered the trees he had newly set.

Mr. Kyrle was a *daily* attendant at church. At the chiming of the bells, all business ceased with him,—he washed his hands, and retired.

Every body has heard of Pope's Eulogium on the Man of Ross. The verses are now for the first time properly illustrated; and the public are indebted to Mr. Jenkins, long resident in the town, for the following valuable and interesting elucidation.

“ Pope used to visit a Roman Catholic Family, then living at Old Oveross in the parish of Ross. He was thus in the way of correct information, as to the character and acts of Mr. Kyrle. Possibly too, the old Gentleman himself might have been a neighbourly visitor, or at the same house; for it is certain, that he was very averse to bell-ringing and bonfires on the fifth of November.”\*

The Poem commences with

*“ But all our praises, why should Lords engross?  
Rise honest Muse, and sing the “ MAN of ROSS.”*

Mr. Kyrle was not denominated the “ *Man of Ross*” from the Poem. It was an appellation given him by a country friend, by which he was long known in his life time, and in which he delighted much, as conveying a notion of plain honest dealing, and unaffected hospitality. There was a point too in his practice, which gave extensive currency to the title of “ *Man of Ross.*” Bad roads and bad accommodations for the Traveller were pretty general in his day; and hence his friendly roof became like a well-frequented Inn, through the wide circle of his friends and their connexions in different parts of the Kingdom. Passing by the puerile ideas of “ *Pleased Vaga*” and “ *rapid Severn,*” we come to

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\* Mr. Jenkins has evidence, that Pope derived his information from hence. Besides he used to visit Pengethly.

*"Who hung with woods, yon mountain's sultry brow?"*

He tastily hung with woods, the Cleve-field bank, opposite Wilton, sometime called the "Little wood," part of his own estate.

*"From the dry rock, who bade the waters flow?"*

*"Not to the skies in useless columns tost,*

*Or in proud falls magnificently lost ;*

*"But clear and artless, pouring through the plain*

*Health to the sick, and solace to the swain."*

Having obtained a long lease of the "Prospect" he elevated the ground in the midst, and joined by other respectable Townsmen, had in "the dry Rock" a fountain made, supplied from the river by the engine below. The fountain contained upwards of 550 hogsheads of water, conveyed by underground pipes to public cocks in the streets. In the middle was a handsome spouting Image. The fountain growing long ago into disuse, through pipes being placed to convey the water to the houses, the brick wall of this reservoir was taken down, and the hollow filled up in 1794.

*"Whose causeway parts the vale with shady rows?"*

It is certain, that the recently levelled Causeway leading to Wilton Bridge was built through the exertions of Mr. Kyrle, who procured large contributions, and subscribed himself amply for that generous purpose; and that the late "shady rows" of elms on each side, were planted with his own hands.

*" Whose seats the weary traveller repose?"*

He erected seats in the Cleve field walks; some under favorite trees : one, a commodious seat, where, after his death, his relative Mr. Vandervort Kyrle built the Summer-house.

*" Who taught that heav'n-directed spire to rise ?"*

The Man of Ross was a sound principled Churchman. The great Bell is his gift, and bears his name. It was cast at Gloucester in 1695 himself attending, and taking with him his old silver Tankard, which after drinking " Church and King" he threw in, and had cast with the Bell.—Being skilled in Architecture, (and a great patron of workmen) and judging the old Spire to be dangerous, at his special motion a parish meeting was convened, and about 47 feet of the Spire taken down and rebuilt, himself daily inspecting the work, and contributing over and above his assessment towards its speedy completion. This was only three years before his death.

*" Behold the Market-place with poor o'er-spread !*

*" The " Man of Ross" divides the weekly bread :"*

This is literally correct. Ross was formerly a considerable Corn-market; and the tolls of all corn brought to the market, had, on some pious occasion, been given by one of the Bishops, when Lord, to the use of the poor. This was a long while continued by the succeeding Lords. Mr. Kyrle last received

such toll, "having it ground, and having the bread sometimes made at his own house, and baked in his own oven." This done, it was taken every Saturday to the steps in front of the Market-house, and there distributed by him. Much has been said of the cheerfulness of Mr. Kyrle, that he united with unaffected piety the jocose without any venom, and retained his mildness of temper under the infirmities of age, and to the end of his days. Tradition reports, in homely language, that "it would have done one's heart good to see how cheerful the old Gentleman looked," while engaged in distributing the bread. Thus, for a series of years was divided "the weekly bread;" but on some questions arising between the Townsmen and the Lord, wherein they claimed or set forth this concession as matter of perpetual right, the Lord refused so to allow it; and Mr. Kyrle himself was fixed on by both parties as arbitrator, who honourably making his decision, in favour of the Lord's ownership, the gift was discontinued.

*"He feeds yon Almshouse."*

By this is meant Rudhall's Almshouse, in the Church-lane, which stands close by Mr. Kyrle's garden door. Part of the spare food of his table was taken to the poor of this Almshouse every day.

*"Him portion'd maids, apprentic'd orphans bless'd,"*

His kindred, servant-maids, and other honest poor

persons were assisted by him on marriage, with useful presents of money, or other things, as occasion required. Though it does not appear, that he interfered much with the Blue Coat School, set up in his time, being merely a subscriber of twenty shillings per annum, yet, when the Boys were to be apprenticed (as was then done by the School) he was usually concerned, and sometimes put out other poor children at his own expence, to many of whom he was Godfather, an office he seldom refused. He left the School by his will forty pounds. He is said also to have been particularly kind to industrious old people past labour. Some of his old workmen are legatees in his will.

The following anecdote does not refer to a case, that was singular in settling the old Gentleman's affairs. About a year, after his death, a Tradesman of the town came to his Kinsman and Executor Mr. Vandervort Kyrle, and said privately to him, "Sir, I am come to pay you some money, that I owed the late Mr. Kyrle. Mr V. Kyrle asking his name and the amount of the debt, told him after looking over the old Gentleman's account book, that he could not find any entry upon the subject." Why Sir, "said the Tradesman," *that* I am aware of. Mr. Kyrle said to me, when he lent me the money, that he did not think I should be able to repay it in his life time, and that it was very likely you might

want it and press me for it, before I could make it up, and so said he, I won't have any memorandum of it, besides what I write, and give you with it; and do you pay my kinsman, when you can: and when you shew him this paper he will see that the money is right, and that he is not to take interest.

*"Is any sick? the "Man of Ross" relieves,*

*"Prescribes, attends, the Medicine makes and gives."*

Mr. Kyrle had a closet well stored with drugs, and he and his house-keeper, Miss Judith Bubb, under his directions, prepared and gave medicine to all the sick poor, who applied to them, and frequently sent them broth and other nourishment. Miss Bubb was his kinswoman, and both made a practice of attending the funerals of the poor, and generally had some concern in the management: going to the house, and accompanying them to the grave. [It is a country custom still existing of thus going without invitation to funerals, as a mark of respect for the deceased—F.]

*"Is there a variance? enter but his door,*

*"Baulk'd are the courts, and contest is no more."*

The Man of Ross was noted, as an arbitrator; sometimes in form of law; sometimes over the friendly tankard in his parlour. Among other contests settled by him, was the great dispute between the Borough and Foreign of Ross, concerning the inequality of their taxes, in the year 1674, in which

he was umpire between the elected arbitrators, who failed to compose the difference.

*"Of debts and taxes, wife and children clear,*

*"This Man possess'd—five hundred pounds a year."*

Mr. Vandervort Kyrle's last surviving Grandchild preserved a family anecdote, that at the time of Mr. Kyrle's death, he owed nothing, and had no money in the house. Although worth five hundred pounds a year, about his true income, he could not by his own means have done all the good things, ascribed to him; yet he led the way, and prompted others to assist by his benevolent zeal.

*"And what? no monument, inscription stone?"*

The spot of Mr. Kyrle's interment, was, by his express desire, at the feet of his dear friend Dr. Whiting; but there certainly was not any inscription-stone at all over his vault, till Mr. Walter Kyrle placed the flat stone there about the year 1750: only on the wall adjoining, were the initials J. K. neatly done by Thomas Hardwick, Parish Clerk, and Master of the Blue Coat School. There is a Bust in relief of the Man of Ross on his Monument,\* done from a likeness taken when he was about 60, but there is no portrait of him now, at any Inn, or public place in the town. He died a Bachelor, and is said to have departed this life very piously.

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\* Put up long since his death.



He was borne to the grave by his workmen, with usual attendants and male and female mourners, and amidst the whole population of the parish of Ross. This affecting solemnity took place on the evening of November 20, 1724. When the Church was newly pewed, about twenty years after his death, the Rector and Parishioners previously resolved that the pew in which Mr. Kyrle sat, should remain, as it does to the present day, in its original situation and style.

It was thought remarkable that the great bell, before mentioned, as the gift of this good man, unexpectedly fell off the wheel, soon after his funeral.

One anecdote of another virtue, forgotten in the Poem is still told. Mr. Kyrle was high Sheriff for the county in 1683. The Market-house being built, a Bust of Charles II. was placed at one end of it, and still remains. The old Gentleman complaining that he could not see it from his parlour, determined to gratify his fancy by having cut in the side wall, the letter L, inverted, and coupled with a C, on the figure of a Heart, meaning "Love Charles to the Heart."

It is truly honourable to the Inhabitants of Ross, that they so revere the memory of this illustrious disciple "of Him who went about doing good." The place is eminent for several other very excellent

characters. Such were, the pious Henry Hacket, Rector: the munificent and ever memorable Dr. Newton, a noted Mathematician and Vicar here, who is finely commemorated by an inscription in the Chancel: Dr. Whiting, Rector, whose Epitaph records him, as he wished to be recorded "the affectionate, but unworthy Pastor of this Church:" the grave and learned Dr. Robert Morgan, Rector: his exemplary friend and Curate Mr. Tudor: the pious and amiable Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Morgan, and others. "But of all the characters this place ever produced" (says Mr. Jenkins) not any has occasioned my admiration more than one whose praise no poet ever sung, whose estate was slender, whose name is in silence, and whose humble grave, but for a well-timed simple enquiry, would have been for ever unknown,—Jane Furney, the daughter of Mr. Merrick of Ross, and widow of a Mercer here. A christian of the old school, her life was a ladder, on which delighted Angels might descend, and which she daily lengthened till it reached the skies. The Altar, the Pulpit, the Organ, the Blue Coat School, all whisper to memory her covered name. The Workhouse and garden her sole gift, remain her unknown monument. "Her Register records her with her poor," and so she studiously sought to be recorded. It awakens enthusiasm to tread the unlettered floor that enshrines the dust of this excellent woman.

whose pious and great soul departed on Christmas day, 1730."

In the Church-yard here, is a School-house called "Saint Mary's" lately rebuilt, of which the Lord of the Manor is perpetual Trustee, and where two free boys are constantly taught. It was endowed in 1709, by Thomas Lord Visc. Weymouth by a charge on the Manor, with a stipend of the Master of ten pounds per annum for ever — Endowed Charity-schools originated in efforts to counteract the proselytism of James the Second's papists: and accordingly,\* here is a Blue Coat School, first set up in 1709 by Dr. Charles Whiting, Rector of Ross, and established with the liberal assistance of the Gentry of the county and others; particularly by the help of Lord Scudamore, who subscribed to it twenty pounds a year. In this school was educated Walter Scott, son of a poor Tradesman in the town, described, in his latter days, as a very neat old man, said to be of close habits, but inflexibly honest. Having acquired a handsome fortune in London, he visited the place of his nativity, and found the school in which he had been educated, in a declining condition. For the purpose of restoring it, he by will dated December the second, 1786, directed that his executors should pay out of his monies in the Funds two hundred pounds a year. Thirty boys, and as many

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\* Morant's Colchester, p. 179.

girls are clothed and instructed in this school. The like number of boys and twenty girls were sometime clothed and taught in the original instruction, and and many of them apprenticed; but depending upon voluntary subscriptions it gradually fell away, except a relic of its endowment of trifling amount, secured on land.

Tom Paine, converting organization into merit, has observed that men of talents are the nobles of nature: and in the other line of thinking, *rich* men by a common misnomer are called *great* men, whereas the virtues alone, except in unusual circumstances, are of benefit to society. Ross has to commemorate not only a "noble fellow" in a Gentleman, but also a country Carpenter. One Webbe (a native of this place, but a settled dweller in Lanwarne) founded a Hospital, containing seven poor; and the Founder's will, dated 1612, shows other benefactions, which demonstrate soul and divine christian sympathy.

Few or no literary characters unconnected with the Rectory have been natives or residents in the vicinity. The Rev. Mr. Walond of Weston, has published two sermons. The following *Jeu d'Esprit* (purely such) is also written by a literary character, of the vicinity, and as it has never been before printed may seasonably relieve our Topographical details.

THE  
LAST THIRTY YEARS:

A  
PARODY

ON  
*Collins's Ode to the Passions.*



WHEN Revolution, fiddler blind, was young,  
(While yet in modern France he sung)  
The Democrats to hear him sing  
Thronged around the vulgar ring;  
Exulting, trembling, raging, fainting,  
Fuddl'd, beyond the Muse's painting;  
By turns they felt a moon-struck mind;  
To Castle-building much inclined;  
With fresh supplies of Gin then fired,  
Fill'd with fury, rapt, inspir'd;  
They snatch'd from the surrounding boys  
Their various instruments of noise:

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And, as they oft had heard apart  
 From thieves, the signal whistle's art;  
 Each, for madness rul'd the hour,  
 Would prove his own seditious power.

First HARDY\* came his skill to try  
 Amongst the corresponding trade;  
 And back recoil'd—he well knew why—  
 Of neck-extension sore afraid.

TOM PAINE, combustible most dire,  
 Next made the rich Stockholders sweat;  
 The hangman to his tail set fire,†  
 And off he scamper'd, deep in debt.

In Purley's meadows, JOHN HORNE TOOKE  
 With parts of speech his grief beguil'd;§  
 The Verbo-philosophic book  
 By fits was fine, by starts was wild.

But thou, O FOX, with speech so fair,  
 What was thy opposing measure?  
 Still it whisper'd pension'd pleasure,

\* *Secretary to the corresponding society, and tried for treason.*

† *The Age of Reason was burnt by the common hangman.*

§ *The "Diversions of Purley" which reduce the parts of speech to only the noun and verb.*

And bade the places good at distance hail;  
 Still would his touch the strain prolong,  
 And from the India bill's sad tale,  
 He called on Westminster through all the song:  
 And when to toast the Sov'reign mob he chose,  
 His title lost,† he mourned at every close;  
 And FOX neglected wept, and wav'd his pig-tail'd hair;  
 Yet longer had he sung—but with a frown,  
 BURDETT impatient rose;  
 And threw his *bonnet rouge* in thunder down;  
 And with his Palace-Yardian look,  
 The mob-collecting trumpet took;  
 And blew a blast so loud and dread,  
 Ne'er were the Cornish Burghs so full of woe;  
 And ever and anon he beat,  
 The COBBET Drum with furious heat;  
 And though at times, each dreary pause between,  
     Th' Attorney General at his side,  
     His soul-subduing voice applied,  
 Yet still he kept his wild unalter'd mien  
 Till in the Tow'r close shopp'd he laid his aching head.  
  
 Thy numbers COCHRANE to the Funds were fix'd,  
 Sad proof of thy distressful state;  
 Of war and politics the theme was mix'd,

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† *Mr. Fox's name was erased from the privy-council for this toast.*

And now he woo'd employ, now raving called on hate.

With eyes uprais'd, as one inspir'd,  
 PITT in the Treasury sat retir'd;  
 And from his snug official seat,  
 In notes, by Lucre made more sweet,  
 Pour'd through the Commons' House his winning soul;  
 From Opposition Rocks around  
 BURKE jump'd away and hail'd the sound;  
 Through corp'rate towns the safety-measures stole,  
 And o'er the bottle's talk with fond delay,  
 Jacks in office port-wine boozing,  
 Constitution toasts diffusing,  
 At civic banquets drank away.

But Oh! how alter'd was its marching tone,  
 When Government, a nymph of brawny hue  
 With Habeas Corpus o'er her shoulder flung  
 And Volunteers in buskins gemmed with dew,  
 Blew an inspiring air, that inn and pot-house rung,  
 The soldier's call, to tippling idlers known;  
 The Cyprian fair, and their dram-drinking queen,  
 Drummers and corporals were seen,  
 Peeping from forth our alleys green;  
 Pipe-clay'd Militia-men rejoic'd to hear,  
 And six-foot tailors grasp'd the sergeant's spear—

Last came FINANCE's dubious trial,  
 He with the income-tax advancing;



First to the yellow Gold his hand address'd:  
 But soon he saw the Bank-restriction viol  
 Whose more prolific notes he lov'd the best;  
 They would have thought, who heard the strain,  
 They saw in Lombard street the Bankers mad,  
 All bills discounting, whether good or bad;  
 To rising Stock perpetual dancing;  
 While, as his flying fingers kiss'd the strings,  
 PITT and the Bank framed a fantastic round;  
 Loose were her tresses seen, her zone unbound,  
 And he amidst his frolic play,  
 As if he would one time or other pay,  
 Exchequer bills shook from his paper wings.

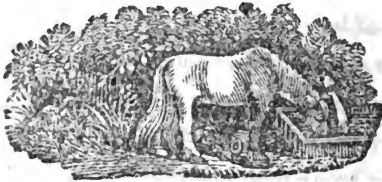
Oh! Money, earth-extracted maid!  
 The lender's loss, the borrower's aid,  
 Say, Goddess, why to us denied  
 Layest thou prices high aside;  
 As in that loaf-in-seven-days year\*  
 When things were most confounded dear;  
 Link'd arm in arm, O Nymph endear'd  
 Thou hast with strumpets forg'd appear'd—  
 Where is thy native form unlying,  
 Scales and weights and dirt defying?  
 Arise as in that elder time,  
 Sweated and clipp'd, but still sublime;

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\* *Some years back the consumption of bread was restricted to a quartern loaf per week.*

Thy wonders in that golden age  
Fill England's subsidizing page.

'Tis said, (and I believe the tale)  
That Guineas were expos'd to sale;  
And that our last best cask of beer  
The Sinking Fund was tapp'd this year;  
PITT, I with weeping say, seduc'd  
The Bank, and left her much reduc'd;  
Scarce left her bare back clothes enough,  
And made her Fame a Lottery Puff;  
Abortive drugs were given by PITT—  
But now laid in, she bears gold yet.



## CHURCH.



**T**HAT there was a Church at Ross, before the Conquest, is evident from the mention of a Priest in Domesday. This first Church is presumed to have stood in that part of the town, which is called the Brookend; and to have had a small Monastic establishment attached to it. The site of these was a modern court where stands a house, now called the Wool-house, and an adjoining tenement, occupied by Mr. Badham, and late Lodge. The consecrated inclosure comprised the outlet and garden behind, in the latter of which human bones have been repeatedly excavated, within the memory of persons, now living. The Religious are understood to have continued there for some ages, after the removal of the Church. It appears from the Life of Robert de Betun,\* that during the wars of Stephen and the Empress Maud, in the years 1138, 1139, the contending parties plundered and burned the smaller Churches, and made use of the larger and stronger, for Castles for themselves. Wilton Castle, was founded in this reign;† and it is possible, that the Church

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\* Angl. Sacr. ii, 313.

† Lelandi Collectanea.

was then destroyed, for the sake of the materials. As to the establishment, it can alone be historically explained by records, into which it is not the plan of the author to enter, as Mr. Duncombe will render it superfluous. It is not however improbable, should it even be unnoticed in these ancient authorities. For, in the Anglo-Saxon æra, it was usual to have a Mother Church collegiate with various subordinate chapels, which custom disappeared soon after the Conquest, by the chapels becoming parochial, or decaying. This was the case at S. Oswald's (Gloucester) Berkeley and other Churches, and very probably at Ross, for it had various chapels, as Brampton Abbots and Weston, now converted into Livings. Many of the Pensions in the valor of Pope Nicholas, originated in the decay of these chapels, and transfer of the endowments, the chief instrument of their ruin being the great Monasteries, who made it a rule to absorb petty estates—Of the existing representative, rather than remains of this Church, it can only be said, that there are but a few feet of walling, with a window and door way, not older, than the reign of Henry VII. now extant, but the building stood east and west. Tradition and Presumption are the sole authorities for the opinions here given which is fairly subject to doubt.

There was also a very ancient chapel at Hom Green, a small parallelogram, of which the ground

plan may be conspicuously traced. It had a monthly service by the Vicar of Ross.

Among the Harleian Manuscripts is an account of Herefordshire parochially digested. The article, Ross, has been kindly communicated by the Rev. John Webb, Rector of Tretyre. Unfortunately, there is nothing in it earlier than the fourteenth century, and in the present Church there is not the smallest trace of Anglo-Saxon, or Norman work. The Manuscript only says "In the Chancelle are the cells of an ancient Quire and over them towards the body of the Church an Organ Loft." The cells are the pews of the Rector and others; and the *Organ Loft*, should be, as Mr. Webb judiciously observes, the *Rood Loft*. Of course the tradition concerning the Brookend Church rests solely upon its own foundation, and the human bones excavated. The Manuscript was written about the year 1658.

It is thought, that there was an especial reason for placing Churches upon eminences, namely that the Towers might be used for Beacons.\* Mr Jenkins is of opinion, that the foundation on the spot is to be ascribed to Rob. de Betun, but if so he proceeded very little with the work; for only the Chancel can possibly be ascribed to him; and that part of the fabric certainly assimilates the Church of

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\* Bibl. Topogr. Brit. vii, p. 69.

Merton in Surry, known to be of the twelfth century\* the æra of Rob. de Betun. But he seemingly did not finish it, for William de Ablaniat, who was Rector in 1287, bestowed much cost on this Chancel,"† at which time the present body of the Church was probably building, for the broad external form resembles Wells Cathedral, founded by Bishop Josceline, between the years 1204 and 1242.—In the Chancel Window is a figure of Thomas de Cantilupe, Bishop of Hereford, in the act of giving the Benediction. He was canonized in the beginning of the fourteenth century, and the Altars in the Church were dedicated on the 6. Id. Maii 1316. The figure of the Prelate would not have been erected in the stained Glass, if he had not been a Benefactor to the fabric. It may therefore be inferred, that the Church was not completed till the year abovementioned. A search in the Archives of Hereford concerning the æra of consecrating the Church, might ascertain the question historically, but without a complete calendar, tabling the contents, the difficulty is enormous.

Ross is a Rural Deanery. The Rectory till the Vicarage was consolidated with it by act of parliament, in the reign of Charles II. was a sinecure of

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\* Lysons's Envir. i. 346.

† Mr. Jenkins from the Cathedral Archives.

greater value, than the Vicarage, which included the chapels of Weston-under-Penyard, and Brampton Abbots. The Bishop of Hereford was Patron of both Rectory and Vicarage.

The Rectory has a Manor, consisting, no doubt, of the Carucates, mentioned in Domesday Book. A Court Baron is held; the Glebe is the Demesne; and the Manor consists of divers messuages, lands, and tenements, in the two capital Manors of Ross Borough and Foreign, producing several little chief rents, amounting in the whole, to 40s. p. ann. besides offerings of Rosemary and Marigolds.

The Dean and Precentor of Hereford Cathedral are endowed with two thirds of the Great Tithes of the heretofore Episcopal Demesne Lands in Ross. These Tithes are in lease to the Rev. Hugh Hanmer Morgan and under-let by him to the Rector.

In the district, called the Cleeve Tithing, the Bishop of Hereford is owner of two thirds of the Great Tithes generally, except a few Mease places, where he has no claim, and except a specialty, as to a few meadows, in the Chapelry of Wilton, where he has only *one half* of the Great Tithes. All other Tithes in the parish belong to the Rector—The Bishop's portion is in lease to the Hon Lacy family, and tenanted by Mr. Amos Jones. Mr. Jenkins was

informed that the *half*, not belonging to the Bishop owed its exemption to being parcel of the foreign abbey of Lyre in Normandy, who had rights in the Chapelry of Wilton. The Chapelry lies in the two parishes of Ross and Bridstow.

Mr. Jenkins has made the following collection of Incumbents, but in a few instances has not been able to discriminate between the Rectors and Vicars, both having usually been Dignitaries of the Cathedral of Hereford.

1287. William de Ablaniat, Rector.

1290. John de Shelving, Rector.

1303. John de Kemmes.

1307. John Coci, [son of Thomas de Coci] of Ross, and

1308. James Henlee, collated Priests of the Church of Ross.

1312. John de Rosse, Rector.

Of him Mr. Webb's manuscript speaks thus, from Godwin. " John de Rosse, a Doctor of Lawe was thrust by the Pope into the Bishoprick of Carlisle without any election, and was consecrated anno 1318 and died 1331. He being born in this towne and taking his name from it, left a memoriale of himself, now almost deleted, which you may understand by this—1329, March 24. " At Ross, Walter de



Morton, Priest, was admitted to the Chantry, founded (ordinatam) in the Church of Ross by John de Ros, Bishop of Carlisle, vacant and belonging to the presentation and nomination of the same father [in God] to which the said Walter has obtained letters of institution and induction directed to the [Rural] Dean of Ros.—35. Ed. 1. license to John de Ros of assigning seventy-four acres in Ross and Walford [to the support of the above Chantry.]

1320. Thomas Talbot, Rector. [Of him below]

1332. Williant de Rosse, Rector: also Arch-deacon.

Here Mr. Jenkins is at a loss, for some years. The following extract from Mr. Webb's communication, explains the cause.

1348, Feb. 9. The Bishop of Hereford admitted Lord Thomas de Mercer, Priest, to the Vicarage of Ross, upon the presentation of Lord Thomas Talbots, Rector of the Church of Ross. This Rosse Parsonage or Rectory was an Honorary, and soe disposable to a layman, who was Lord of the Parsonage, and presented to the Vicaridge. *Reg. Trillec p. 21.*

1414. John Stanway, Rector. [Dean of Hereford]

1420. Thomas Yonge, Vicar.

1430. Richard Rotheram S. T. P. Rector.

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He was Confessor to the Bishop of Hereford, and built the Chancel at Hentland; probably therefore Vicar of Lugwardine.

1438. Robert Jordan, Rector or Vicar.

1453. John Davyes, Vicar.

1463. Hugh Ragoun, Rector or Vicar.

A query has been started, whether John Berewe did not hold the Rectory at this period. It seems pretty clear, that a person named Berewe was a Donor to the Chantry at Ross, and that the House, now the Nag's Head Inn, was the property, judged to have been given, and which was of old commonly called *Berewe's Inn*. A John Berewe was first promoted in the Cathedral of Hereford in 1429, and died Dean in 1462.

1486. Thomas Chippenham, A. M. Perpetual Vicar of this Church and Parish.

At his instance a curious and beautiful Rood Loft was erected in the Church (after the fashion of the Rood Loft at Ledbury) at a public charge.

1510. Thomas Moreton, L. L. B. Rector. He was Archdeacon of Hereford.

1511. Richard Judde, Rector.

1516. Richard Parkhurst, Vicar. He is understood to have been the immediate successor of Chippenham.

1522. William Webbe, Rector. Archdeacon of

Hereford, and said to have been kinsman of Bishop Mayew. He died 1522, and lies buried in Hereford Cathedral.

Here Mr. Jenkins is at some loss. One Thomas Beale seems to have been a minister of Ross in the time of Queen Elizabeth. But Mr. J. thinks that the first protestant incumbent was

1563. Thomas Lewis, Vicar—buried at Ross.

1591. Ludovicus or Lewis Williams, Vicar. In his time the following entry was made in the old Register “ 1585, on the 30th of August was buried in the Cathedral of Hereford, John Scorey the *unworthy* Bishop of that See” [Of *Scorey* hereafter]—

1594. John Watkins, A. M. Rector. Dean of Hereford, buried at Ross in 1594, much lamented.

1615. Bernard Bennett, Vicar—buried at Ross.

1642. Henry Hacket, A. M. Rector. He resided, died, and was buried at Ross, leaving an admirable character. His daughter Mary was married to Thomas Cocks of Castleditch Esq. She died in 1675 and lies buried at Eastnor.

In Mr. Hacket's time, Nathaniel Hill, of Ross, A. M. was a celebrated Preacher. He died in 1632, and was buried in the Chancel. Hill's grave was casually opened in 1775, when his body, though it had lain there 143 years was found but partially decayed, and the beard and mustachoes perfect.

1646. Phillippe (sic) Price, Vicar. He is believed to have been the successor of Mr. Bennett in the Vicarage, and was deprived for his loyalty in 1646. He died, and was privately buried, Mr. J. thinks, in the Chancel at Ross in 1653.

Divers Licenses to invalids and lying-in women, to eat flesh on Fish-days in Lent were registered by Phillippe Price, Vicar.

[Under the rebel government, the Rectory, then a *Sinecure*, was usurped by one John Tombes, B. D. an Anabaptist. He was a Theologist of some note in his day, and the same Man, who held a public disputation with Baxter in the Temple Church, London, in the event of which, their disciples—the Saints present, proceeded to fighting.

This Man seems to have resigned the Rectory in 1658, and as is said, was ultimately reconciled to the Church. He died and was buried at Salisbury.

The Vicarage of Ross was also then held by one Jonathan Smith; and there being two Jonathan Smiths contemporaries, it is fit to note, that they appear to have been father and son, or uncle and nephew, the former being the mock vicar.

In Rudder's Gloucestershire (p. 696) is a long Epitaph of this man, stating that he was born at Rochester 16. April, 1609, was educated in Ireland, [It is omitted, that he was apprenticed to a Taylor

in Canterbury, and was a bankrupt hosier at Sandwich, see before p. 89 ] officiated at Ross twelve years, was expelled by the return of the King, and died anno 1670, aged 62. His Epitaph purely makes a *Merit* of a vehement propensity to preaching. Whether he talked sense or nonsense was of no moment, because Enthusiasm ascribes to feelings only, the honour justly due to Labour and Learning; and thus deprives the public of edification and instruction.

[It is noted by Walker in his sufferings of the Clergy, that these obscure persons represented themselves and their brethren, as in rank Apostles, mimicking the phrases applied to, and used in Scripture, by these Holy Persons, although void of their grand credentials, Prophecy and Miracle. This remark may illustrate the pompous nonsense of the above Epitaph, and that of his son or nephew as presumed, who was buried at Ross, in a garden, formerly a burying ground of the Quakers, Sep. 18. 1678 æt. 45. His sole claim to honour is that of preaching.]

1660. John Newton, D. D. Vicar. [Of him further on]—

1671. John Cooke, Rector.

1699. Thomas Brome, A. M.

1711. Charles Whiting, D. D.

1745. Robert Morgan, D. D.

1771. John Egerton, D. D. [Of him further on.]

1775. Theophilus Meredith, A. M. [He was presented by the King, died at the Hotwells, Bristol, and was buried at Ross.]

1779. Charles Morgan, M. A. resigning.

1801. Hugh Morgan, D. D. resigning.

Thomas Underwood, A. M. the present Rector.

The last Eight have been Rectors, after consolidation of the Rectory and Vicarage; and making Weston and Brampton Abbots independent parishes.

An account shall now be given of two very eminent Rectors. viz. Dr. Newton and Bishop Egerton.

JOHN NEWTON was the grandson of John Newton of Axmouth in Devonshire, and son of Humphry Newton of Oundle in Northamptonshire. He was born at Oundle in 1622, and was entered a Commoner of St. Edmund Hall Oxford in 1637. He took the degree of B. D. in 1641, and the year following was created Master in precedence to several Gentlemen, that belonged to the King and Court, then residing in the University, on account of his distinguished talents in the higher branches of Science. His Genius being inclined to Astronomy and Mathematics, he made great proficiency in these sciences, which he found of service during the time of the Usurpation, when he continued steadfast to his legal Sovereign. After the Restoration he was created D. D. of Ox-

ford. In Sep. 1661. he was made one of the Kings Chaplains being Vicar of Ross in the place of one Jonathan Smith, ejected for Nonconformity. He held that Living till his death, which happened at Ross Dec. 26. 1678. Wood gives him the character of a capricious and humourous person; but, however that be, his writings are sufficient monuments of his genius and skill in the Mathematics. These writings consist of various works in Astronomy, Trigonometry, Gauging, Interest of Money, Logarithms, Rhetoric, Arithmetic and Geography.\*

The following are the particulars,† which were mentioned of Dr. Newton in the town, by aged persons. He will be called eccentric by those, who do not know that Philosophers live for the indulgence of various abstract pleasures and inclinations, which the vulgar cannot at all comprehend, and which their superiors often misunderstand. When he was M. A. he published his *Trigonometria Britannica* (folio 1658) and dedicated it to Richard Cromwell, a time-serving action, of which the Doctor could never afterwards endure to be reminded. He was in person, rather under than over the middle stature, did not appear without his gown, did not shave the whole of his beard, was sprightly, somewhat whimsical, and very

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\* Chalmer's Blogr. Diction. xxiii. 118.

† Communicated by Mr. T. Jenkins.

fond of Music and Singing, in which he himself taught some of the Church Singers. He was fond of going on a pleasant day to serve Brampton Church; he used to ramble about Westfield by night *stargazing*, now and then measured spires and trees, fixed and altered Sun-dials, was prone to give judgment about the weather, would frequently attend to his own brewing, had a chest of tools in his study and worked and wrote daily. There is more in this than meets the eye; for this mixture of Mechanical and abstract pursuits appears in the Life of Sir Isaac Newton, and was probably a fashion of the day.

He and his family went to Church every day. He was a fine preacher, and remarkably beloved throughout the parish; was very particular as to not incurring debt, but poor, through hospitality and charity. In his personal habits he was frugal; amiable in his family and very attentive to his duties, as a Clergyman.\*

Over the Doctor's Grave, in the Chancel, is a large Table bearing the following inscription, written by Dr. Robert Morgan, Rector, and renewed by the present Rector, Mr. Canon Underwood.

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\* Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.



In Sacello hoc  
 Sub rudi lapide obscurè latet,  
 Qui vivus per literatum orbem inclaruit;  
 Quantus Vir! et quo non Monumento dignus!

**JOHANNES NEWTON S. T. P.**

Insignis Mathematicus!

Orator Felix!

Et quod in Tabellâ hâc præcipuè notandum est;

Ecclesiæ hujus,

Non solum Pastor nuperus, plurimum dilectus;  
 Sed et Benefactor perpetuus, semper memorandus;

Quippe

Cujus consilio, operæ, impensis  
 præcipuètribuendum est  
 Quod Ecclesiæ hujus patrimonium

(pro oneris amplitudine

Nimis olim exile et parcum)

Decimis majoribus tandem

Auctoritate publicâ auctum sit

A. D. 1671.

Quo Cœpto feliciter consummato,

Supremum diem clausit

Vir Beneficus et doctus

VII Kal. Jan. A. D. 1678.

Et libentius ut credibile est in cœlum migrans

Quod in terris Boni operis sui fructum non percepisset.

Abi Lector!

Et si publico Commodo invigilare gaudes,

Magis quam tuo:

Hinc sume exemplum.

R. M.

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*Hanc Tabulam, animo non sine grato redintegravit*  
*Thomas Underwood, Rector. A. D. 1813.*

**JOHN EGERTON**, (Bishop of Durham) was son of Henry Egerton, Bishop of Hereford, fifth son of John, third Earl of Bridgewater. He was born in London Nov. 30. 1721, and educated at Eton and Oriel Colleges. He was ordained in 1745, and became successively Rector of Ross (in 1745) Canon of Cublington in the Cathedral of Hereford (1746) Chaplain in ordinary to the King (1749) Dean of Hereford (1750) Bishop of Bangor (1756) of Litchfield and Coventry 1768, of Durham 1771. In 1748 he married Lady Amelia Sophia daughter of Henry de Grey, Duke of Kent, and at his death in 1787, left issue a daughter, lady of Sir Abraham Hume, Bart. and two sons; John William, who on the death of Francis third Duke of Bridgewater, became seventh Earl; and the Hon. and Rev. Francis Egerton, Prebendary of Durham and Rector of Whitchurch, in Shropshire.

The Bishop was remarkable, besides an excellent character in other respects, for tact and singular dexterity in evading embarrassments. The following are instances among many that might be mentioned. A Gentleman asked his Lordship, what he inherited from his Father?

*Answer.* Not so much as I expected.

Not satisfied with this rebuff, the Gentleman put a second question, viz.

What was his wife's fortune?

*Answer.* Not so much as was reported.

The tormenting investigator then ventured a third specimen of ill breeding, as follows,

What is the value of your living of Ross?

*Answer.* More than I make of it.

Of course, infinite amusement arose from the Querist's impertinence, or the conversation would not have been recorded and circulated.

Another anecdote is reported of the Bishop's adroitness—

“ A Gentleman requiring of him the renewal of a Lease, upon terms far short of its real value, and the Bishop refusing, the Gentleman assigned as a reason, why the proposal ought to be accepted, that his Lordship was in such a declining state of health that his life was very precarious. Upon this the Bishop very readily remarked “ Since that was the case, the Gentleman must be convinced, that his own interest was but a secondary consideration to him, and his principal object must be to do no injury to his successors.”\*

There were other institutions connected with the Church. One of them very ancient is clearly recognized in the following extract from the Register of

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\* Lives of Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmore, &c. &c. by the Hon. & Rev. Fr. Egerton—Chalmer's Biograph. Dictionary, &c. &c.

Bishop Gilbert.\* In 1377 John Gilbert, Bishop of Hereford, unites and annexes together the Chantry founded by John Rosse, Bishop of Carlisle, who was borne and buried in Rosse, because of the exility of the lands by the malevolency of intruders and the scarcity of husbandmen, occasioned by the last plague, *with a certain society or fraternity in the village of Rosse anciently founded*, which being joyned together, one priest shall celebrate masse for the soules of the founders of each, which fraternity was dedicated of late dayes to the memoryes of the B. Virgine and S. Thomas the Martyr. Here then is an evident condensation of the preceding collegiate institutions, into *one* form, for the Harliean Manuscript quoted† says, “ There were two chantries of our Lady, the one founded by the forementioned John de Rosse, both well endowed: another chantry for the service of St. George.” Mr. Jenkins thinks, that there was also an altar of S. Margaret, and he adds, that in an obscure account of the heretofore benefactions to the Church of Ross, occur the names of Walter de la Pole, and Isabella de la Pole, widow. Isabella Mercer widow, also by will in 1482, after usual oblations to the Mother Church of Hereford, the high altar, &c. gave or charged her lands in Blacknorle to devout uses in this Church.—The fact is, that in every town in the kingdom petty donations

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\* p. 2—Mr. Webb.

† Mr. Webb.

of this kind occur, from lights to chantries, according to the circumstances of the parties, all of them customs derived from the Heathens. Chantries were endowments for certain ministers to pray for the souls of the founders, but not till after they had first done so for those of the Kings who had licensed the foundation, and the majority, if not the whole of these licenses are abstracted by Vincent, in a M. S. now remaining in the College of Arms. As the priests too were not allowed to celebrate their private masses at the high altar, those numerous structures and chapels, of which we read in our ancient Churches, were devoted to this purpose, that they might not disturb each other.\* Such institutions were common, because alms were deemed expiations of sins.

The Church, as it existed in the year 1658 is thus described.

“ In the Chancelle are the cells of an ancient Quire, and over them towards the body of the Church an Organ Loft. [Rood Loft]”

“ On the south side of the Church are the monuments of the Rudhalls of Rudhall in this parish, of which there be divers—first is of

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\* Fosbroke's Gloucester, p. p. 340. 361.

William Rudhall and his Wife Margaret the daughter of Sir James Croft, temp. Reg. Elizab. with three enquarterings."

- O. on a bend B. [Az.] 3 Catherine wheels A. by the name of *Rudhall* [or *Riddall*. F.]
- G. Cheveron int. 3 escallops A. *Milborne*.
- G. fretten A. [*Beauchamp, Bewham, Hodleston, Winswold*. F.]
- B. A bend int. 6. trefoils Or. [*Aston* betw. 8. tref. F.]
- G. Fesse checky O. & B.—*Whittington*.
- G. Flowers de lis A. [a field, *semé de lys*, is either the Kingdom of *France*, or with the field Arg. the coat of *Potyn* or *Petevin*. G. a fl. de lis Arg. is borne by *Aguillon*, and three fl. de lis by *Gordon* and *Cantebors*: six Or by *Montefelant*. At all events, it is a bearing of foreign origin. F.]
- A. a cheveron B. int. 3 foxes heads erased G. [*Fair-fax, For, Foxall*. F.]
- S. a lyon rampart int. crosses fitchéd crosslet. A.
- A. a lyon ramp. cross crosslet fitchéd. S.
- [The blazonry is imperfect, but the coat appears to be *Long's*. One similar belonged to *Hantvill*. F.]
- S. a cross ingrailed int. 4 (blazonry imperfect. F.)
- A. 3 barrs wavy B. [*Sandford* but *Champney, Dalby Lovell, Polmeroy, &c.* bore similar ordinaries. F.]
- S. 3 Swannes A. [*Fazakerley, Kilmesson, Kilmessayne*; the Swans Or. *Brome*. F.]

"Next to William is the tombe of John Rudhall the sonne of William, who married the Lady Cholke, with her effigies alsoe *though alive*; next to these is a statue erect in armour of William brother to John last mentioned, who both died leaving no issue from them to succeed them, and soo the estate came to be divided amongst the children of the sisters of William and John, who had married into these families, the

Pies, Westfalings, Broughtons, Prices, Auberys and Morgans.\*”

[Most of these monuments were probably erected during the life-time of the parties, for such was a fashion of the æra, of which numerous instances might be quoted. The sculpture of some of them is allowed to be very fine. Mr. Dallaway, speaks thus of the erect figure of the loyal General William Rudhall. In the reigns of Elizabeth, James and Charles I. very expensive monuments, executed by Foreigners were in vogue: and in Westminster Abbey is a sitting figure in a Roman military costume, upon a circular altar. It is erected for Francis Holles a young officer. The fashion is repeated at Ross in Herefordshire in a military figure of one of the Rudhall family. The intention was to produce a strong effect by entirely insulating the figure, and leaving it without accompaniment.†]

Among these monuments is a bust of the late Thomas Brereton, Esq. who took the name of Westfaling, from marrying Mary the heir general of the Rudhall family. Upon the pedestal is inscribed the following epitaph in elegant latinity, written by the present Bishop of St. Asaph.

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\* Harl. M. S. S.—Mr. Webb.

† Gent's Magaz. June 1818 p. 492.

M. S.

Thomæ Filii Reverendi viri Richardi Brereton,  
 e comitatu Glocestriensi,  
 Qui Mariam,  
 Unicam ex illustri Familia de Westfaling hæredem  
 Uxorem habuit, et nomen illius sibi assumpsit,  
 Natus die IV Idus Maii A. D. MDCCLX.  
 Mortuus die XIV Kalendas Junii A. D. MDCCCIV.



Vir fide antiqua, atque incorrupta,  
 Animi in omnia, quibus faveret consilliis, acerrimi,  
 ea tamen morum benignitate castigati,  
 Ut eorum etiam, qui non idem sentirent,  
 Amicitiam et benevolentiam sibi conciliaret:  
 Qualis fuit in pauperibus sublevandis,  
 Qualis in eorum liberis erudiendis,  
 Pauperum lachrymæ testantur;  
 Quam jucundus in Amicitia, societati utilis,  
 Quam hujusce vicinæ et deliciæ et ornamentum  
 Ex hoc marmore scias,  
 Quod  
 Amoris, qualecunque sit, et desiderii testimonium,  
 Talis viri non immemores  
 Sumptu suo  
 Poni curaverunt  
 Amici, Socii, Vicini.



A window of stained glass, recently erected behind these monuments, exhibits them in very chaste, and interesting effect. Glass of this kind may be so contrived, as to show off objects under the light of dawn--midday—or evening—in proportion as yellow, crimson, or blue colours abound in the painting.

“ Neare to these” [Rudhall Monuments] continues the Harleian Manuscript, is a chapple in the ile of the Church south called the Lord Greyes chapple, in which in the east window is to be seen

G. 3 miters proper, a very and this coat is 3 or 4 times  
ancient painting ( See of in the church. (If the horns  
Chester. F.) are Bugle horns these are  
A. on a cheveron int. 3 horns the arms of *Forester* or  
S. 3 pheons of the first; *Forster*. F.).

In a window in the north end of the body westwards.

Barry of sixe A. & B. a labell of five points G—*Grey*.

In the next window above it are

A. lion ramp. G. bordure 3 flowers de lis. *Cantelupe*  
S. Bezantes. *Comewell* of and See of *Hereford*.  
*Birrington*. 5 Cheveronells (Deanery of  
3 lyons heads reversed jessant Hereford. F.)

In a window of a small chapple at the east end of the north Ile. [Of this chapple no vestiges remain.]

A. a fesse int. 3 diamonds B. A. fesse int. 3 diamonds B.  
*Parry*, impaled with Barry *Parry* A: 3....S. impaled  
of six A. & B. over them 3 with A: fesse ipt. 3 dia-  
crescents S. (*Grey*, the monds B. *Parry*.  
crescents for difference. F)

A: a fesse int. 3 diamonds B. impaled with B. a fesse  
int. 3 swyers. O.

In the east window five cheveronells.

So far the old M. S.—The Church, which crowns the Apex of the Promontory has the effect of a Greek Acropolis with respect to the town underneath. On the S. and W. it appears highly picturesque, rising amidst tall elms; and is unobstructed by buildings. From the London entrance on the N. E. it towers, like the Parthenon at Athens, over the brick houses, and never loses grandeur, but when viewed closely from the north side of the Church-yard. The general fine effect is owing to a lofty well-proportioned spire, and a belt of majestic elms planted in 1685 by the MAN of Ross. The pinnacles of the Tower were also planned by him. Unfortunately for the close view, the windows have been deprived of their mullions; and as these are apt to decay, it is to be regretted, that they are not in general resupplied by Fac-similes in cast iron. The east window is tastefully adorned with stained glass, and the light so corrected by curtains, as to give it a rich dimness; what ought to be denominated a proper Church light; not an insipid white lustre, like a manufactory, perforated with sashes. The ancient Rood-loft is said to have contained an Organ. In the east window of the N. Ile two young trees spring from an old root without. The original Tree was planted with the other elms by Mr. KYRLE. An old Altar hangings of blue velvet is preserved, having the Crucifix and

several angelic and apostolic figures worked with silver. The Organ was opened Oct. 18. 1726. The front of it is said to have originally belonged to Salisbury Cathedral. The pipe of the Stove runs under an old window between the church and chancel, which window was intended to convey without, the sound of the Saint's bell rung at the elevation of the Host, in order that all persons within hearing might fall on their knees. In the year 1776, Lady Betty Dupplin having left a sum of money for erecting a monument to the memory of the MAN of Ross, it was accordingly done, in a rich style with a medallion of Mr. KYRLE upon it. The Lady merits the gratitude of philosophers, for Polybius refers, in a great measure, the cause of the higher qualities, and the superiority of the Romans over their enemies, to the custom of honouring excellence even after life, because it excites the emulation of the rising, as well as existing generation.\* There has also been erected not long ago a tablet in elegant latinity to the memory of a daughter of the Rev. John Webb, Rector of Tretyre, to whom this little work is indebted for a valuable communication—It is as follows.

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\* Sir W. Gell's *Pompeiana* p. 87.

Annæ. Francescæ. Filiæ. Unicæ  
 Quæ. Octavum. Agens. Annum. Egregia. Indole.  
 Cnm. Parentales. Animos. Spe. Pasceret. Eheu. Inani.  
 Fato. Acerbo. Prærepta. Sic. D. O. M. Visum.  
 Occidit. Maii. VIII. Die. A. D. M. DCCC. VII.  
 Mœrentes Posuerunt  
 Joannes. Webb. A. M. In Hac. Ecclesia. Aliquandiu. S. V. M  
 Et. Sara. Uxor. In. Diuturnam  
 Sui. Desiderii. Et. Puellæ. Amabilis. Memoriam

*The Punctuation is in the old Classical Form, of which see  
 Gruter, Fleetwood and others.*



As to the Church-yard, Dr. Clarke observes, concerning certain tombs of Telmessus, that a *Soros* above answered the purpose of a Cenotaph, for whenever the ground was sufficiently cleared around them there appeared between the Soroi a vault. Such a mode of interment, he says, is still exhibited in all our English Cemeteries. It is a practice, derived from the Romans, and the form of their Sarcophagus, may be noticed in almost every Church-yard of our island.\* There is a singularity however in this Church-yard. The north side is crouded with tombs, whereas in most other places, the South was the favourite spot, on account of having the benefit of Paters and Aves from the parishioners, when coming to church.

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\* Travels iii, 305.

In the Church-yard is a Cross, commemorating the ravages of the Plague. Tradition says, that the Market was then held on Wilton Bridge. The Money was passed through a tub of water, and the goods were laid down to be conveyed away—The following account of the Births and Deaths for three years is recorded.

|       |             |            |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1635. | Births 62.. | Burials 34 | } In this last Year 34 were<br>buried Mar. 25. to July 31.<br>In Aug. 107. In Sep. 99. In<br>Oct. 46. From Nov. to Mar.<br>25. 29.....Total 315. |
| 1636. | Do. 46...   | Do. 72     |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1637. | Do. 23...   | Do. 315    |                                                                                                                                                  |

Upon the Church-Tower is a Clock. Sundials were not unusual upon Tombs. Trimalchion in Petronius orders his monument to be surmounted by a Sundial, that the eye of the Traveller willing or unwilling might be attracted to the inscription, recording his name &c.—The motive is now different.

Formerly the Church was surrounded by the Bishop's palace in the Prospect, the Rector's in the meadow below, and the Vicar's on the other end of the Church. The residence of the Chantry priests occupied the site of the School on the north side.\* Of the Bishops palace before. The Vicarage (now the Rectory) still subsists. In 1635 it consisted of a House, Garden, Barn, Stable and Fold. The dwelling contained a hall, two parlours, kitchen, and sixteen other rooms and chambers, besides offices.†

\* Mr. Jenkins.

† M. S. pen. Chr. Bond, Esq.

The Parsonage (a smaller building) was taken down in 1793. After the Reformation, a Grammar school was kept in the Chantry House, or old Church House. These were, in some places, a sort of Alms-houses erected for the benefit of poor religious persons, who were to lead a devout life, and attend regularly the service of the Church, particularly that of the Chantry, and to offer up frequent prayers for the souls of the Founders. At the Reformation, these pious Edifices, not being considered in the number of religious houses, strictly so called, were either appropriated to the service of the ministers of their respective parishes, or used for schools, or retained as Alms-houses.\* In other accounts, it is said, that these houses were intended, the lower rooms, as habitations for the poor; the upper rooms (large) for holding Law and the Manerial Courts, Vestries, and Markets every Sunday morning, where all kinds of provisions were sold, as Butcher's Meat, Meal, Cheese, Butter, and other necessaries. Here also the inhabitants had their Music and Dancing, as often as they pleased.†

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\* Watkins's Bideford p. 62.

† Williams's Monmouthshire app. p. 93.

## Borough, Manor, &c.



“**T**HE old Manuscript says, *Rosse* or *Roos*, signifies a Rock or Cliffe.” Mr. Webb very properly disputes this etymon, for, in fact, *roos*, signifies no more than *red*, the colour of the rock and soil.

It appears (says Mr. Webb) that the Bishops had a wood of very considerable extent in the neighbourhood, for it was destroyed for one mile in length by fire. They had also the Chace, and the boundary was somewhere upon Penyard, which latter appertained in the reign of King Edward I. to the King's Forests. I presume, that the Chace extended over the Goodrich road down towards the river, for you have Harbour Hill, so called to this day. They had also pools of some size; for besides the Extract from Trillec's Register I have seen a roll of Bp. Swinfield's in which mention is made of the large pool.\*

Thus Mr. Webb. Harbour was the term applied to favourite resorts of Deer† and there were persons employed in *hart-hunting* called *Harbourers*, who

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\* Letter to the author.    † Guillim's Heraldry p. 166.

were to find out these *harbours* or places of concealment, so as to *unharbour* the deer, for casting them off before the hounds.\* Of the hunting of Bishops, nothing need be said. The large pool was probably that between Ross and Olton Court, not far from the earlier residence of the Bishops.

The earliest notice in the Harleian M. S. is the following extract from the Register of  
Bishop Richard Swinfield.

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| <p>It. md. quod cum Dns<br/>Eps esset apud Ros dié lune<br/>pxime ante festum sci Mat-<br/>thi Apli anno Dni 1286 ve-<br/>nator ejus cumquibusdam<br/>hominibus suis cucurrerunt<br/>in Chacia sua ibidem in<br/>Peniard et ceperunt ibi-<br/>dem juvenem cervum et cum<br/>de cervo ipso et de loco in<br/>quo captus erat inter eos-<br/>dem venatores et forestarios<br/>regis esset dissensio, post-<br/>modum in absencia dni fac-<br/>ta fuit inquisitio cujus<br/>transcriptum inferius con-<br/>tinetur. Inquisitio facta<br/>apud Hule Cnolle in die<br/>Jovis prox ant. festum sei</p> | <p><i>Mem.</i> That when the<br/>Lord Bishop was at Ros on<br/>the Monday next before the<br/>feast of St. Matthew the<br/>Apostle, in the year of our<br/>Lord 1286, his huntsman<br/>with some of his men run<br/>in the Chace there in Pen-<br/>yard, and took there a<br/>young stag, and since a<br/>dispute ensued concerning<br/>that stag, and the place, in<br/>which it was taken, between<br/>the same huntsmen and the<br/>King's Foresters, afterwards<br/>in the Lord (Bishops) ab-<br/>sence an Inquisition was<br/>taken of which a transcript<br/>is contained below—Inqui-</p> |
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\* Gentleman's Recreation p. p. 72. 75.



Matthei anno R. R. Edw. X.IV. Imprimis, Walford, Cocton, Heckenore, Ruwarden, Hope Maloyseil, Longehope, Eccleswall, Dene, et ex eis duodecim hoies legales electi et examinati p. Grumbald Pauncevot, et viridar. et alios ministros et jurat. de Foresta si ille cervus de quo inquisitio fit si captus fuerat infra Forestam an non? Et oies hoies jurat. et examinat. dixerunt p. sacramentum quod captus esset extra forestam, ubi chacea Dni Epi semper ee consueverat, et villat. concordaverunt et xii electi inde in oibus: unde Grimbaldus exostulavit qui fuerant ad illam venacionem illius bestie et villat. dixerunt qd. nescierunt sed Forestarii dixerunt W. de Chevening et Venator V. Carecuag et I. de Herley. *Reg. M. S. Rici Swinf. Epi. p. 37.*

sition taken at Hule Cuolle on the Thursday next before the feast of St. Matthew in the year of King Edward [first] the fourteenth. Imprimis Walford, Cocton, Heckenore, Ruwarden, Hope Maloyseil, Longehope, Eccleswall, Dene and out of them twelve men legally elected, and examined by Grumbald Pauncevot, and the Verdurers and other ministers and jurors of the Forest, whether that deer concerning which the inquisition was held, was taken below the Forest, or not? And all the men being sworn and examined said upon oath that it was taken where the Chace of the Lord Bishop had been always accustomed to be; and the villagers agreed and the twelve men elected out of them in all points; from whence Grimbald enquired, who were at the hunting of that beast, and the villagers said that they did not know; but the Foresters said, William de Chevening, the huntsman, V. Carecuag, and John de Herley.

A Chace was a spot of ground, where animals were preserved for the sake of hunting, and legally recognized by Royal Grant, Privilege, or prescription. It differed from a Park, in being uninclosed; and from a Forest in smaller extent: the latter of which belonged to the Kings only.\* If the Deer had not been killed within the Bishop's precincts, he would have been severely fined.

In 1353 the Bishop had a trial with Walter Moton, because he

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| <p>vi et armis liberam chaceam ipsius Epi apud Rosse introivit et in ea sine licencia et voluntate sua, fugavit et feras cepit et asportavit et dna enormia ei intulit ad grave dampnum &amp;c. et feras videlet quingent cervos, et cervas, quingent damos et damas trescent. capriolos et capriolas cepit asportavit et dampnum habet ad valenc. c. lib. <i>Reg. Trillec</i> p. iii.</p> | <p>entered by force the free Chace of the Bishop at Ross, and in it, without licence and permission, hunted, took and carried off the animals, and did enormous mischief to it, taking away five hundred stags and harts, and as many bucks and does, and three hundred <i>Roes</i> to the value of £100. The Jury find Walter Moton guilty of this transgression to the damage of foure pounds to the said Bishop.</p> |
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There was good reason for then keeping *Roes*,  
 “The venison of a Roe, (says the Gentleman’s Recreation†) is never out of season being never fat,

\* Spelm. v. *Chacea—Foresta*.

† p. 55. Ed. 1677.

and therefore they are to be hunted at any time"—but the sport went out of vogue. "There are (says the same work) no Roe-deer in England, but there are plenty of them in *Scotland*.†"

There was a quarrel between this Walter and the Bishop, for such aggressions were common vindictive actions, and the Bishop at the same time§ sued him for taking away fish, viz. Pikes, Truttes, Roches, Perches, Dares, Anguilles, (Eels) &c. to the value of £20. The Jury find him guilty to the amount of £4 to the Bishop.

In 1383 JOHN GILBERT, then Bishop excommunicates

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| <p>—quorum personæ spiritu<br/>diabolico inflammati animas<br/>eorum in sponsas xpi creatas<br/>preciosissime vendere non<br/>verentes. arbores et ligna<br/>de silva nostra de Rosse<br/>contractarunt, asportarunt<br/>abstulerunt et boscos ejus-<br/>em silvæ per spacium unius<br/>miliaris igne cremando con-<br/>sumpserunt, in grave ani-<br/>marum suarum periculum<br/>aliorum perniciosum exem-<br/>plum et nrum prejudicium<br/>et dampnum non modicum et<br/>gravamen &amp;c. <i>Reg Trillec</i> p 19.</p> | <p>certain persons, who inflam-<br/>med by the spirit of the devil<br/>did not fear to sell their<br/>souls most preciousely crea-<br/>ted to be brides of Christ,<br/>and cut down and carried<br/>off trees and wood, from<br/>his wood of Ross, and set<br/>fire to it for the space of a<br/>mile, to the heavy danger<br/>of their own souls, a per-<br/>nicious example to others,<br/>and great loss and dam-<br/>age to the said Bishop.</p> |
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† Id. p. 85. § Plac. ad. Westm. 27. Ed. iii. rot. 29. de Banco.

In 1388 the Bishop has confirmation of free warren in Ross, &c. and in the years following, the Dean and Chapter of Hereford have assize of Bread and Beer, and other liberties in Ross, &c.\*

The Harleian Manuscript thus proceeds. "The Royalty and Demesnes of Ross did of long time appertaine unto the See of Hereford, and was a parcell of the lands of the Bishopricke, but it is reported that Queene Elizabeth did take it from the Bishopricke by exchange, which since hath appertained to the Devereuxes Earls of Essex, and Viscounts Hereford, till within these 12 years by the death of the late Robert Earl of Essex, [who died Sep. 14. 1646†] for want of issue of his body it went to his sisters by one of which it came to the Marquesse of Hartford. It is a large manour; in it is How Caple, and Walford."

Thus the account taken in the year 1658. Bishop Scory is said to have been the person, who resigned it to the Crown. Fuller says of him "Sure I am he began very well; being an *Exile* and *Confessor* [a *Confessor* is a *Saint* without *Martyrdom*. F.] in the dayes of Queen Mary, but is accused afterwards to be guilty of *Oppressions*, *Extortions* and *Symonies*,

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\* Reg. Trellic. p. p. 10. 18, 19.

† Dugd. Baronage ii. 180. Mr. Webb.

so that a *Bill* was put up against him in the *Starr chamber*, conteyning matter enough, not only to disgrace, but to degrade him if prosecuted. But he bought out his innocence with his money.”\* The Queen was notorious for compelling the Bishops to exchange Lands for Tythes, and no doubt took full advantage of Scory’s character.

The Manor now consists of mere tolls, &c. the estate having been parcelled out.

The Harleian M. S. says “ Col. Harley informed that it [ Ross ] elected Burgesses for parliament anciently.” Mr. Jenkins communicates that Adam de la More and Thomas le Mercer were returned to Parliament, as Burgesses for Ross 33. Ed. iii. The Townsmen have been accused of selling this privilege to Weobly; but at this period, they had not the means of so doing if they had wished it; for long after, in 1411, and 1459, the King nominated the members, by letters under the privy seal addressed to the Sheriffs.† The Undersheriff at the election of Knights of the Shire for Norfolk writes that he means to make his return after the sufficient or number of votes, though he at the same time hints, that it is not entirely as he shall please, but as the High Sheriff shall direct.§ As to Towns, the Recorders, were commonly the Representatives.

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\* Church Hist. B. ix. p. 178

† Andrews i. pt. 2. p. p. 12. 149. § Paston Lett. iii. 432.

A letter of the fifteenth Century says, "Sir, labour ze to the Meyer that John Dam or William Jenny be Burgesses for the Cetye of Norwich. Telle them that he may be that as well as Yonge [the Recorder] is of Bristow, or the Recordour is of London. And as the Recordour of Coventre is for the Cite of Coventre; and it is in many places in Ingland."\* There was no Recorder at Ross; and the return as stated 33. Ed. iii. was no doubt, a mere act of royal pleasure, founded on circumstances, now unknown; and little regarded by a Colony of Blacksmiths, the general profession of the Town from the fall of Ariconium to the days of Camden.†

The earliest mention of the creation of the place into a Market town is a charter of Stephen, who was then at Hereford, and might have motives of policy in the measure. A copy of the original grant§ is here added.

Stephanus, Rex Angliæ, Stephen, King of England  
 Justic et Baron et Vic et to his Justiciaries, Barons,  
 omnibus Ministr suis Franc Sheriffs and all his officers,  
 et Angl de Herefordscir Norman and English of  
 Sal. Scilatis qd concedo Ro- Herefordshire, Health. Know  
 berto Epo Heref. habere that I grant to Robert [de  
 unum mercatum ad diem Jovis Betun] Bishop of Hereford

\* Id. 158.

† Britannia.

§ From Mr. Bond's M. S. Brient the Witness, was a bitter enemy of Stephen (see *Dugd. Baronage* &c.) so that the charter must take date after the final concord in 1153.

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| <p>qque Septimana in Manerio-<br/>suo de Ross, et precipio qd<br/>omnes hōres illue euntes et<br/>inde redeantes juste hēant<br/>meam pacem Apud Hereford<br/>Brient fil Com. &amp;c.</p> | <p>to have a Market on Thurs-<br/>day every week in his Manor<br/>of Ross; and I order that<br/>all persons going and com-<br/>ing from thence have my<br/>peace."</p> |
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In 1240 King Henry III. renews the grant of the Market, and a fair on the Vigil, Day, and Morrow of St. Margaret.\* In 1635 the Fairs were held on Assension day, July 25, Aug. 15 and Sept. 14.† Now the days are Thursday after the 10th of March called a Great Market, Ascension day, June 21st. July 20th. Thursday after October 10th, and December 11th.

The Mayoralty was a more troublesome office in ancient times, than it is now. There was formerly a Walter Moton alias Merton Bayliff of Rosse with the Burgesses there using the comyn seale of the Towne of Rosse,§ which common seal appears to have been a Sprig of Rose-mary from Rose for the name of the town, and the dedication of the Church to the Virgin Mary. The assault of this Man's Ancestor of the same name upon the Demesns of the Bishop (as before mentioned) shows him to have been the leader of a Town Quarrel; and the Bailiff of a

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\* Rot.....25 H. iii. m. 6.

† Hopton's Concordance of years p. p. 172. 5, 6, 7.

§ Mr. Jenkins.

Manor was formerly of such consequence, that he was a Vice-roy of the Lord, and in the absence of the latter, even the King's Writs were addressed to him.\* The former Walter Moton had probably been turned out of office, under the Bishop of the day, who was not popular enough to check his resentment. We find in the reign of Henr. V. a John Brugge, gentleman, Mayor, and so we may a Nobleman, Churchwarden at the present day; but without a charter of Incorporation, the office of Mayor is void of dignity. Under the restrictions and oppressions of feudal government, tolls and assizes, and weights, and measures, and licenses of baking and brewing, the officers could not be respectable men; and in after times the office became nominal; that of a constable without the personal labour. The old English *Catch-poll* is the Welch *Ceispwl*, the Anglo-Saxon *hæcepol*, and the subsequent *Cace-pollus*, the person who collected the Lord's manerial dues,† and the Capitularies of Charlemagne, says of these Catch-poles, Reeves, Mayors or Bayliffs of Manors, that they are not to be chosen out of more powerful men, but of faithful men in middle life.‡

In 1646, on account of a claim then made by Sir John Brydges, Lord of the Manor of Wilton, to a place called the Dock, the parochial boundaries

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\* Ducange v. *Ballivus Manerii*.

† Ducange v. *Cacepollus*. ‡ Id. v. *Majores Villarum*.



were taken. Of this perambulation, no original record is known: but there are several copied sketches of it, in private hands; all of them professedly incomplete, and adjudged erroneous, where they are not supported by correspondent usage. It appears however that the small local claim then set up by Sir John Brydges, was effectually defeated by that survey.

Among the notable places referred to by those old Perambulators, are "*The Goat-house*" and "*The Gospel-oak*." The former was contiguous to The round-tree Field, where several parcels of Land, now the estate of Mr. Amos Jones, are to the present day, called "*The Goatherd's Farm*." Tradition reports that Goats were formerly kept here, belonging to the Bishops of Hereford.

By "*The Gospel Oak*" is understood originally, an ancient Oak within Penyard Park, and which was the acknowledged boundary there, of the parishes of Ross and Weston, and beneath whose shade in the perambulations of Ross, the Priest put on his vestments, read a portion of the Gospel, and gave his Benediction: and the company sat down and regaled.

The old Tree having been cut down or gone to decay, time beyond memory, and the neglect of orderly perambulations after the Reformation, having

been of long standing; towards the close of the seventeenth century (when Weston was severed from the Rectory of Ross) the Gospel Oak had become doubtful; and, what was surprising, the testimonies as to the spot where it had stood, differed very extensively, and in point of evidence, no dependance could be placed on them. Hence, the question of boundary, after a chancery suit, was finally by the two Incumbents, submitted to arbitration, in the year 1719.

In the parochial walk, the junction of Ross with Weston, commences at the stool of an Oak, which grew over a spring, in the bottom of a little meadow called "*The Flaxridge*," in Penyard. This spring was venerated of old, and formerly boiled out, but is now a silent rivulet. The Oak here, was large and handsome. *This, and none other*, is now regarded as the *real* Gospel Oak, and the practice of reading, in the perambulation, a portion of the Holy Gospel, by the Minister of Ross in his Surplice, is continued at this spot, to the present time.

"The Flaxridge" consecrated by the observance of ages; while it confirms to memory the identity of the boundary, allures the mind to contemplation. Skreened by the mountain groves, the grassy dell at one end rises to the mazy path, and on the other greets the opening vale. In this lone sublimity—at this spring—and beneath this oak, rested Mr. Kyrle,

with the reverend Thomas Rosse, then Curate of Ross, and the parishioners (including Boys of the blue-coat school) in perambulation on the 31st of May, 1709.\*

Mr. Rosse being vested, the company reverently uncovered as he unclasped the sacred volume; and where the book chanced to open, he began to read. The tradition of that interesting moment is preserved, which infers the genuine piety of "*The Man of Ross*." He stood near to the Minister, and as the reading proceeded, was observed raising his hat to his face to conceal—*his Tears!* The portion of Scripture was nearly the whole of the 4th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John; and the scenery seemed to associate with the subject:—our Lord and the Woman of Samaria.

The procession had provisions in a Basket, and bottles of Cyder; but Mr. Kyrle dipped a wooden Can in the Well, and drank of the spring. One of the Churchwardens, (a Mr. Maddocks) expressed a fear that Mr. Kyrle might take cold. "*No,*" replied the good old Man, "*what we have just been listening to, has made my heart warm!*"†

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\* There is an original memorandum of this perambulation extant, among the Parish papers, at Ross, having the signatures of Mr. Rosse, Mr. Kyrle, the Churchwardens, and others present. † Inform. Mr. T. Jenkins.

*Among the principal families of Ross, is that of  
Dr. Evans.*

EVANS } — Evans Canon of Hereford, Archdeacon  
OF } of Llandaff.  
ROSS. }

John Evans, Canon of Hereford, buried at Fownhope.

Richard. M. D. Baptized == Catharine Daughter of  
at Fownhope, married Mr. Thomas Mynd of  
at Bridstow, living in the Family of — Mynd,  
1821. esq. of Hentland.

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| <p><i>Sons.</i> Richard.<br/>John, Student of Mag.<br/>Coll. Cambridge.<br/>Thomas.<br/>Henry.<br/>William.</p> | <p><i>Daughters.</i> Lydia.<br/>Catharine.<br/>Ann.<br/>Mary.<br/>Helena.<br/>Elizabeth.</p> |
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ALL BAPTIZED AT ROSS, AND LIVING 1821.

The family of BROOKES of Ross, of whom Mr. Samuel Philpot Brookes Surgeon is here resident, is descended from Phillpotts sometime of Beachley in the county of Gloucester, a branch of the memorable Sir John Phillpott of London, noted in History in the reign of King Richard 2nd.

## The Foreign.

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**T**HE Manor of Ross Foreign extends over part of the Parish, which is out of the Borough, and a great part of the Parish of Walford.

The principal Manor and Estate is that of Rudhall, long the seat of a family named from the place, a certain token of high antiquity.\* The pedigree is unfortunately lost, but Mr. Jenkins has kindly supplied some scattered particulars. The Rudhales are said to have descended from the Anglo-Saxons, and had heretofore a large estate of nearly £. 3000 per annum reserved rents, but it was greatly diminished before the present family succeeded; and the residue was then divided among the issue of the daughters, with preference to Westfaling descended from the eldest.—The Westfalings are also of high family. The line springs from the Herberts of Oxfordshire; allied to the Earls of Pembroke. John Herbert, a knight of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, on the dissolution of that order by Henry VIII. went beyond the seas, and took upon him the name of Westfaling. This John had a son, a student of Christ Church Oxford, who embracing the reformation, fled abroad in the reign of Queen Mary. He, adopting

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\* Camden's Remains, p. 111.

the course of his father called himself Herbert Westfaling [He was the first Bishop of Oxford. F.] and translated to Hereford, [in which see he died in 1602. F.] He married Ann daughter of Bishop Barloe, by whom he had issue a son and four daughters. The son was Herbert, who married Frances daughter of William Rudhale of Rudhall, and whose descendants on failure of the Rudhales, succeeded to that Estate. The Seat is an interesting relic of antiquity, because earlier than 1587, when says Fuller, “ began beautiful buildings in England, as to the generality thereof, whose *Homes* were but *Homely* before, as *small* and *ill* contrived, much timber being needlessly lavished upon them. But now many most *regular pieces of Architecture* were erected.”\* While the ancient character still exists, there are also elegant additions and decorations, in the modern ornamental stile, so that the whole forms a very curious and gratifying ensemble. The House and Estate are now vested in the Heir General, Mrs. Mary Westfaling, widow.† Mr. Jenkins found the following in an original paper. It is very much in the style of Leland.

“ Mayster Rudhale hath a fayre Chappell in his Mansionn of Rudhale, dedic. to Sancte Katharin, and well sculptored, whereof the officiatyng Clerke of Brampton Abbott hath the Altarage as Chaplyn theare.

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\* Church Hist. B. ix. p. 188. † See before p. 133 seq.

Heare are dyvers Katarin Weells placed Armoriall, and also the motto “ In Domino Confido.”

The Chapel was taken down by the late Mr. Westfaling. The site is still considered in the parish of Brampton tho’ surrounded by Ross.

The CLEEVE is a good estate, belonging to Philip Jones, Esq. who married Ann, daughter of William Hutcheson, whose wife Sarah, was daughter and heir of Robert Kyrle, son of Vandervort Kyrle, to whom the MAN OF ROSS, devised the estate.

Other genteel families, in alphabetical arrangement,

|                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aveline George, Esq.              | Holder J. Esq. <i>Hailmarsh.</i>    |
| <i>Mount-pleasant.</i>            | Jones J. Y. Esq. <i>Merrivale.*</i> |
| Compton Richard, Esq.             | Jones A. Esq. <i>Tudorville.</i>    |
| <i>Gloucester-road.</i>           | Nourse Mrs. <i>New-house.</i>       |
| Cooke J. Esq. <i>Chace-house.</i> | Palmer Miss, <i>Duxmore.</i>        |
| Harvey Mrs. <i>Oxer-ross.</i>     | Russel E. Esq. <i>Ross Villa.</i>   |
| Hill Jos. Esq. <i>Lincoln.</i>    | Searle — Esq. <i>Hom-lodge.</i>     |
| Holder Rev. R. K.                 | Trusted Mrs. <i>Springfield.</i>    |

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\* This branch of the Joneses of Garthgenan, settled here within the last century, by a marriage with the heiress of Yonge—is lineally descended, in the male line, from Tudor Trevor, Earl of March and Hereford, and through him from the heretofore Kings of Powis and of Wales. The family Pedigree, now in possession of Mr. John Yonge Jones, begins with Cadell Deyrnllug, King of Powis, who is stated to have built and resided at Whittington Castle, near Oswestry.

WALFORD. The author chuses, from knowing that nothing authentic can possibly be given respecting descent, of property, without access to record, to confine himself to unpublished and genuine matter.

The Bishops of Hereford were before the conquest, the undoubted Lords of this Hamlet of Ross; but at the compilation of Domesday survey, there was not a Gentleman in the place. The Tenure by Knight's Service however implies this rank; and presuming, with the learned Roger Gale, that Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, who died May 4th, 1162, compiled the Black Book of the Exchequer;\* published by Hearne;† Hugo de Walford, who at that time held a Knight's fee under the Bishop, was the first person of gentilitia rank in the place. There was however one subordinate contemporary family; the Yeemes (as in Old Deeds) not Yems. They are stated, in an Epitaph in the Church, to have held the Howl Estate (now belonging to Mr. Thomas Williams) for several hundred years, and the Male line to have terminated on the death of Edmund Yem in 1707, who left an only daughter Elizabeth.

Robert Kyrle appears in the Chancery Deed of 1614, the only Kyrle dignified with the title of Esquire, if the inscription quoted be correct. He

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\* Biogr. Britann. ii. 153. Ed. 2.

† i. p. 150.



had a son, or relative of the same name, viz. Robert Kyrle, Esq. Lord of the Manor (as says a flat-stone) who was buried Oct. 2nd, 1669 aged 51, whereas the Pedigree before quoted, \* mentions a *James Kyrle* of *Walford* Court, High Sheriff of the County in 1629, although the Chancery Deed speaks of only *Robert Kyrle, Esq.* and *William Kyrle, Gent.* as living in the place; and if Robert Kyrle died in 1669 aged 51,† and the inscription be correct, *he* could not be the Robert Kyrle of 1614.

It appears to the author, that the various branches of the Kyrles, have been jumbled all together into one line. Of one fact he is certain, that the Parish Registers were not consulted; for a blank is left for the christian name of the second wife of Robert Kyrle, and under June 22, 1662, is this entry of Burial "*Mildred*, wife of Robert Kyrle, Esq." Admitting the ancientry of the Kyrles, (first *Crull*) at Walford, of which there is little reason to doubt, the Abstract of the Title-deeds of Walford Court say, that the estate passed by failure of Heirs male, after 1689, to the Gwyllims of Langston, through a female heir ;§ that in 1747 an Act was passed for sale of the

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\* Heath p. 17. † There is no such burial in the Register.

§ The Parish Register says — 1689 Sep. 12. William Gwyllim Jun. of the Parish of Llangarren, Gent., and Madam Elizabeth Kyrle were married per licent'

estates of Robert Gwyllim, Sen. and Robert his son, in virtue of which the estate was sold 10 Aug. 1751, to certain Trustees for John Clarke of the Hill, with Goodrich ferry, &c. &c. and thus descended to Mrs. Jane Clarke of very amiable and liberal memory.—Alice, daughter and heir of a Walter Kyrle is said to have taken the Old Hill in marriage to Christopher Clarke. This is very probable; but the deed of 1614 proves the estate to have been inconsiderable. Success (according to tradition) of speculation in Clover seed, introduced into England by Sir Richard Sutton in 1652, enabled the Clarks to realize a fortune, by which they successively enlarged their estate to a considerable amount.

WALFORD COURT was certainly at one time a superb residence. Tradition says, that it was fortified by Col. Kyrle; (of whom elsewhere\*) in the civil wars of Charles I. It is still a very curious specimen of a residence well adapted to resist a coup de main. It consists of a succession of walled courts commanding each other, and there is no approach to the house, but under direct and flanking fires, from behind walls, and out-houses. In the orchard, behind the house, is a mount, probably once hollow, as at Oxford, for a magazine, upon which a cannon might be placed for discharging grape. At present it is a mere *fuimus*; and has yielded its ancient

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\* Wye Tour.

glory to a large mansion called New Hill Court, built by the hospitable and benevolent family of Clarke.

The next considerable estate is that of

**BISHOP'S WOOD.** In the year 1614, in consequence of an altercation, a decree of Chancery was made, of which the following is the substance. Bishop's Wood, containing by estimation 2000 acres, was formerly part of the waste lands of the Manor of Ross Foreign, which Manor, in the year mentioned, belonged to the Earl of Clanricard, Lady Frances his wife, and Robert Earl of Essex, and the freeholders of Walford enjoyed the right of common of pasture and estovers thereon. In the same year, an agreement was made between the said noble parties, and the freeholders, by which the former took one half of the common in lieu of their manerial rights, free from all right of common and estovers thereon; and released to the freeholders, the other moiety, as their absolute property, instead of their commonable rights on the whole, free from all claims of themselves and all other owners of the Manor of Ross Foreign.

*Inter alia*, the decree says "that the freeholders shall have, hold, and enjoy the other half and residue of the said ground or wood, called *Bushoppe's Wood*, and the wood thereupon growing

with the appurtenances, without the lett or interruption of the complainantes or any claiming from, by, or under them, or any of them." This agreement was confirmed by decree in Chancery made in Trinity Term 1614. The part in severalty now belongs to John Partridge, Esq. who has elegantly ornamented a mansion in a sequestered spot, now occupied by Mrs. Ives, the mother of his Lady. The common or Freeholders' portion has been lost, by surreptitious enclosures of the poor. But old vestry books show manerial rights to have been exercised by the Freeholders. The Chancery deed recites the names of the *Freeholders in* 1614, Sir John Scudamore, of Homlacey, Knight; John Rudhall, of Rudhall, Esq.; Robert Kyrle, of Walford, Esq.; William Scudamore, of Ballingham, Esq.; John Stratford, of Walford, Esq.; John Markey, of Walford, Gent.; William Kyrle, of Walford, Gent.; John Dewe, and Lumley Dewe, of Walford, Gents.; Anthony Stratford, of Walford, Gent.; Margaret Rudhall, the younger, of Rudhall; Richard Clarke, Edmond Yeeme, Walter Harris, James Hardwicke, James Smith, John Croose, Thomas Griffiths, Robert Richardes, John Sipprance, John Morton, and John Seymor all of Walford, *Yeomen; i. e.* mostly *Old English Yeomen*, occupying their own estates, and living in plenty and hospitality. Only two or three were tenants.

**COWBURY** (or Colbry) the next considerable estate, long in the Bonds, passed with Elizabeth only child of Richard Bond in 1736 to her husband Gabriel Hanger; and was sold by their son John Lord Coleraine in 1775, to Charles Trusted father of Immanuel Trusted, who resold in 1813 to Henry Barnett, Esq. who has built a handsome house, and resides here.

HENRY BARNETT Esq. = ANN daughter of — Rye  
Esq. marr. at Bathwick.

|          |            |         |          |      |            |
|----------|------------|---------|----------|------|------------|
| Frances. | Elizabeth. | Thomas. | William. | Ann. | Frederick. |
|          | Henry.     |         |          |      |            |
|          | twins.     |         |          |      |            |

ALL BAPTIZED AT WALFORD.

But the chief family in blood, and public benefactions was the Stratfords\*

John Stratford, summoned to Parliament 13. Ed. ii. ann. 1320 was father of Sir Stephen Stratford, who by Elizabeth daughter of Robert Lord Monchaust of Ireland, was father of John, who by Maud, daughter of Sir Henry Guy of Nottinghamshire, was father of Henry, who by Marg. daughter and heir of Ralph Loudaine, Esq. (whose mother was Isabel daughter and heir of Sir Richard Barwell) was father of John, who by Elizabeth daughter of John Stenmarch of Staffordshire Esq. was father of John, who by Catherine daughter and heir of Henry

\* The same family, as Stratford of Farneste in Gloucestershire: but the Pedigree here quoted supplies the earlier descents, wanting in M. S. Harl. 6174.

Eaton, Esq. (by Catharine daughter and co-heir of Thomas Langley 2nd. son of Sir H. Langley Knight) was father of Robert, who by Ann daughter of Richard Atwood of Staffordshire, Esq. was father of Richard who by Frances daughter of Thomas Kirkeby Esq. was father of John, who by Marg. daughter of Richard Howell, Esq. was father of William (2nd. son) who by Joyce daughter of Richard de Laniott, was father of William, father of Ferdinando of *Walford*, who by Ursula dr. and coheir of John Hereford, Esq. was father of John, who by Barbara daughter of Edmund Rous Esq. was father of Robert of *Walford*, who by Hester daughter of Robert Williams, Esq. *first* wife had issue William, who died young, and Ann wife of John Hooke of Crooks, Gloucestershire, and by Martha daughter of William Strachy *Sec<sup>d</sup>* 2nd. wife, had issue. John, Martha, Hester, Mary, and *Elizabeth*.\* Robert Stratford, Esq. died 1675; and his son John, bapt. May 21, 1664, (William Collins Gent. of Upton Bishop, having married Mary third sister of this John Stratford) devised the Whithall Estate by will dated 27 May, 1736, to the issue of his sister by the above William Collins, in whose descendants it still remains. One of whom has been High Sheriff for the County. The old Mansion still exists and has manifest relics of ancient dignity.

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\* From an illuminated Pedigree penes J. S. Collins, Esq.

The BOLLEN and COUGHTON anciently the estate of the Chinns and Seymours, now belongs to Mrs. Nourse, an ancient family in the Neighbourhood. The Bollen Farm-House is a respectable old dwelling of delightful situation. A good house at Coughton is occupied by Miss Charlotte Strong, sister of the Rev. Robert Strong, Rector of Brampton Abbots.

NEW HOUSE is the property of S. W. Compton, Esq. and has been recently purchased of Thomas Trouncer, Gent. the lessee of the impropriation.

\* Christ. Bond, Esq. of the ancient and opulent family of Bond, of Newland in Gloucestershire, resides here, and has an only daughter Marianne.

The PADDOCK was the estate of the old Freeholders the Crooses. Harris's was sold about ten years ago.

OLD HILL, the old residence of the Clarkes is now tenanted by John Dean, Esq.

There is a Castellum, or Exploratory Post near Howl Farm to the Camp at Penyard on the Chase. On Feb. 17, 1813 the Church-spire was destroyed by a tremendous storm of Lightning. The supporting tower remains, and stands on one side of the Church, apparently because it was erected subsequently to the Nave, with the existing West end of which, it was not deemed desirable to interfere. A Chapel at Coughton was pulled down not many years ago, and near Coughton Turnpike was a Cross.

ANY man who chuses it has as much right to mention himself in a book upon paper as in a Church upon marble. I shall not trouble my children with the latter expence, but after the example of other County Historians, correct and enlarge the account published in the History of Gloucestershire, Vol. I. p. 407. ii. Emendations.

In Staffordshire is an ancient village or hamlet, called Forsbrooke, or Foss-broc, and in or about the year 1802, there still subsisted at that place in obscurity, a family of the name of Forsbrooke, of Forsbrooke, manifestly descended from the very earliest ancestors. In an ancient charter\* which mentions the donation of the church of Wolleford to the Priory of Roucester, in the county of Stafford, by William Basset, three of the witnesses are Osbert de Fotesbroc, and Walter his brothers. The *t* is probably a typographical mistake for *r*,† and the name should under that circumstance be corrected into Foresbroc, as the name of the Village is Forsbrooke, which again was synonymous with Fosbroke. In the Epitaph of John Fosbroke, Esq. of 1602, and the Parish Register of Diddlebury under the years 1584, 1585, and 1591 the name is spelt Fosbroke, but in 1635 Forstbrooke occurs; and again Fosbrooke; a barbarism, like Pembroke for Pembroke.—But

\* Dugdale's Monasticon ii. 269. Ed. 1st.

† In the page quoted the Church is called at top Walleford, below Wodeford.



there is a strong circumstantial evidence, that this Osbert and his brothers were the ancestors of the subsequent Fosbrokes. Their attestation to the Charter quoted, shows, that they were members of the establishment of this William Basset. Now the Northamptonshire Estates hereafter mentioned, were held under Ralph Basset of Draiton, and the Paramountship passed to the Staffords; Thomas, Earl of Stafford, being, 14 Ric. ii. (anno. 1390) found one of the coheirs of Ralph, last Lord Basset of Draiton, being son of Hugh, son of Ralph, son of Margaret, sister of Ralph Basset, father of Ralph, father of the said Ralph, who died the preceding year\*

In these early periods, it may be laid down as a rule; subject to very few exceptions, that (as in the Scotch and Irish Clans,) the members of noble establishments, were allied to the head of the family, and mostly derived the estates, of which they were subinfeudists, by donation as being relatives; for younger brothers lived servants to the elder. There was then little or no purchasing, except by the Abbies and Bishops, who might be said to have been the only monied capitalists in the realm.†

\* Inquis. p. mort. in Campbell's Stafford Peerage p. 68. 91, 92.

† The Bishops of Winchester often advanced loans to the Kings. Card. Beauford. lent. Henr. V. £20, 000, William of Wykeham paid for his tenants, three several times, the subsidies granted by parliament. Toulmin's Taunton p. 8.

Through this early connexion with the Basset family, and the probable enfeoffment by them of the Fosbrokes, on the Basset Northhamptonshire estates, the principal branch of the family removed to Cranford St. Andrews, in the county mentioned. Accordingly, in 1392, Richard Clowne and John *Fossebrok*, are found to hold of Thomas, Earl of Stafford, two knights fees in Barton Segrave, Rauntes and Cranford.\* This *John Fossebrok* presented to the living in 1391, and a *Margaret Fossebrok* in 1403. She was, therefore, in all probability, widow of *John*.

This *John Fossebrok* left issue, another *John Fossebrok*.

In 1412 *John Towere* of Barton Segrave, released to *John*, son and heir of *John Fossebrok* and *Maud* his wife, and their heirs, all his right to the lands and tenements in Cranford and Barton Segrave, which the said *John Fossebrok* the father possessed, by grant of *Richard Clowne* and *Agnes* his mother.† He, *John Fossebrok* the son, died in 1418. He married *Matilda* or *Maud*, a lady of the noble house

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\* Inq. p. mort. Tho. Earl of Stafford, 16 Ric. ii.—Bridges's Northamptonshire p. 227.

† Close rolls 14. Henr. iv. m. 10.—Correctly quoted, as appears from search, by Bridges.

of Stafford, Dukes of Buckingham,\* who was, after her husband's death, [dry] nurse to King Henry VI. Humphry Earl of Stafford being one of that King's Guardians. She was then in her widowhood. She presented to the living in 1438, and lies buried with her husband at Cranford. It was formerly a matter of strict etiquette to have for royal infants a nobly descended nurse, and the practice is said to have been first waved in the case of his late Majesty, Geo. III.† The effigies of her husband in armour, and herself in elegant costume, still appear on a brass plate in the Church of Cranford, with an Epitaph, printed in Bridges, stating the above particulars, and now almost obliterated.

The above *John* and *Maud* had issue, *Edward*, or *Gerrard*, of *Cranford*.§

This *Edward*, or *Gerrard*, married *Dorothy*, daughter of *Robert Drewell*, of *Little Gedding*, co. *Huntingdon*, and by her had issue *Robert*|| [not *John*, as Bridges, &c.]

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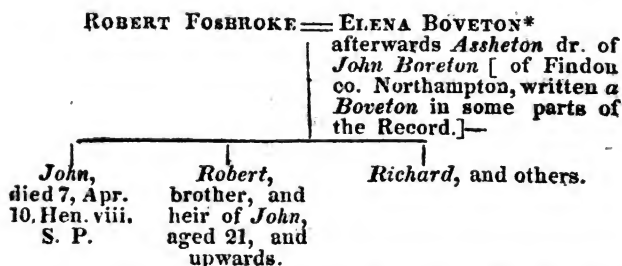
\* Informat. of the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, Historian of Staffordshire, and the Claimants of the Stafford Barony.

† Percy Anecdotes p. 8. Joinville (i. 116) says, that the King's nurses in sickness were ladies.

§ Visitat. of Northamptonshire for 1566, in the College of Arms p. 39. Harl. M. S. S. 1467 fol. 27. b. and 1553 fol. 38.

|| Harl. M. S. S. and Bridges, ubi supra.

In the inquisition post mortem taken on the death of *John*, eldest son and heir of this *Robert*, is the following account of the marriage and issue of *Robert*, incorrectly stated in the Harleian M. S. S. and Bridges.



The Inquisition further recites, that *John*, the son of *Robert*, died seized of several Messuages or Lands in Cranford, with the Manor named *Curson's Manor*, and the Advowson of St. Andrew's Church.†

One of the younger Brothers mentioned in the record, was settled as a Yeoman at Diddlebury, co. Salop. Prior to the year 1521; as appears from an old family book, containing, inter alia, a copy of "The Ancient Custom Money for Tithe Hay, taken anno. 1521," kindly restored to me by the Lord Bishop of Worcester.

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\* *Buston* in Bridges erroneously.

† Inq. p. mort. 10 Hen. VIII. n. 78. abstracted by T Foster, Esq. Eman. Coll. Cambridge, and collated with Bridges ubi. supra.

The above *Robert* the father and *Ellen*, had i  
*Richard* and *Henry*, which *Richard* was the sur  
ing brother and heir of *John* and *Robert*.

This *Richard* died 7. Aug. 1541. (33. Hen. VIII).  
He married *Juliana* daughter of *William Kynnesman*  
of *Lodington*, co. Northampton. In 1542 she pre-  
sented *William Fosbroke* to the living of Cranford;  
presumed to be another son of *Robert* and *Ellen*,  
and uncle of her husband *Richard*.\*

This *Richard* and *Juliana* had issue *John* and  
*William*. S. P.

This *John*, was sixteen years old at the time of  
his fathers decease (6 Jan. 1541.) He married *first*,  
*Dorothy* daughter of *Robert Drewell*, of *Little*  
*Gedding*, co. Huntingdon: She brought him four  
sons and four daughters. *Secondly*, *Audrey*, daughter  
of *Robert Lenton*, of *Woodford*, co. Northampton:†  
she bore him four sons and twelve daughters, and  
died in 1589.—In the Chancel of the Church of  
Cranford, upon a brass plate, is a Man, dressed in  
the costume of an Esquire of those days, with a  
female figure on each side, for his two wives, with  
the following inscription:

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\* Inq. p. mort. 33. Hen. VIII. searched by Mr. Foster,  
and Bridges.

† Harl. M. S. S. and Bridges.

“ Here lyeth *John Fosbroke*, Esq. who departed this life the 12th of March, anno. 1602, about the age of 80, who buried before him two wives; by the first he had issue 4 sonnes and 4 daughters; and the last whos name was Audre, died in anno. 1589, having issue by him 4 sonnes and 12 daughters, being in her life time bountiful to the poore, and esteming no time well spent wherin she did not some good either to poore or rich. He saw issue of his Children by both his wives above 70 Grandchildren; to 18 of his Children he gave portions and relieved his Grandchildren. Yet He.....was zealous of God's Glorie, loved the Saints, relieved the Poore, and defended the Helples, and hath laid up in store a sure foundation in Heaven.”\*

The eldest son of *Robert* and *Dorothy* was *William*, Lord of the Manor of Cranford, &c.† In the reign of Charles II. or thereabouts, Cranford being sold, the eldest branch of the family removed to Shardlow Hall, co. Derby, where it still continues with ample possessions.§

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\* From a Copy made by the Rev. B. Hutchinson, Rector of Cranford, May, 1820, from the Brass.

† Harl. M. S. S. and Bridges.

§ Informat. T. Fosbrook, Esq. who says “ My Grandfather Francis Fosbrook died about 50 years ago, aged upwards of Ninety. His Father came from Northamptonshire with the family of which he was a younger

*Richard second* son of John and Dorothy his wife,\* one of the eighteen children portioned off, was bred an Armourer, and for some time carried on his profession in the Tower of London; but visiting his relatives at Diddlebury, there formed a matrimonial connexion with a widow of fortune, named Elizabeth Street, whom he married June 16. 1584, and settling in that village, was father by her of

|                                                                           |                                           |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Juliana,<br>(named from her<br>great Grandmother,)<br>bapt. Apr. 7. 1585. | Michael,<br>bapt. Feb. 27.<br>1587. S. P. | John,<br>bapt. Apr. 11.<br>1591 † |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

John, surviving son and heir, declined a Baronetcy, when James I. offered for sale the Ulster Patents, observing, that he had rather be a wealthy yeoman, than a poor knight. There was much truth in this remark, for Shakspeare says, in the speech of the Duke of York to Queen Margaret:

“ Thy father bears the type of King of Naples,  
Of both the Sicils and Jerusalem,  
Yet not so-wealthy as an *English Yeoman*,”  
Hen. VI. P. iii. A. i. Sc. 6.

branch, and settled at Shardlowe in the reign of Charles II. Letter dated 29. Dec. 1820.—The name till the 17th-Century was spelt *Fosbroke*, and so should have continued, because it is the orthography of the Cranford Brass, Glover's Ordinary of Arms, the early Parish Registers of Diddlebury, &c. The Shardlow branch has generally used *Fosbrook*. e. g. Edward Fosbrook, Esq. is described as Patron of the living of Castle Donnington, co. Leic. in Nichols's Collections. Bibl. Topogr. Brit. No. X. p. 644. \* Harl. M. S. S.

† Parish Register of Diddlebury.—Family accounts.

Hollinshed also says "Our ancient Yeomen were wealthy and sent their sons to the University."\* He married.....daughter of ....Baldwin of Aquilate and Diddlebury, a very ancient family descended from the Baldwins, Kings of Jerusalem and Earls of Flanders, a royal descent, attested by Collin's Baronage, V. 43.†

This John was living in 1635 and was father of Edward, Samuel, and Timothy. One of these was a Clergyman, (presumed Edward)§ and was imprisoned in Hereford Jail for praying for Charles I. He was father of William, born about 1650.

This William was matriculated at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, Mar. 31. 1671, and took the degree of M. A. July 3. 1677.|| He was Vicar of Diddlebury, and Rector of Acton Scott, co. Salop; in which Church, behind the Chancel door, is the following memorial.

\* i. p. 275. Ed. 4to.—In Herefordshire there still remain strong traces of the wealth and respectability of the Old English Yeomanry; real fine manly characters.

† The Communion Plate now in use at Diddlebury, was given by the Baldwins and Fosbrokes.

§ The Parish Registers are lost. The authorities are family accounts, and an old lease.

|| Archiv. Univ. Oxon.



“ In Memory of the Reverend and Learned William Fosbrooke, M. A. Vicar of Diddlebury, and Rector of Acton Scott, who departed this life, the 10th. of July, 1726, aged 75.

A curious circumstance accompanies this Epitaph. An entry of Burial occurs in the Registers of both the Parishes, of which he was incumbent, though one *must* be purely an entry of memorial. It was customary to perform the Burial Service in more churches than one, with regard to persons connected with those churches, or public characters: and this practice has given occasion to numerous mistakes, concerning the actual places of interment.

This William was a very exemplary Clergyman, according to the fashion of his day: he prayed most sincerely for the conversion of the Papists and Mahometans; was a violent Tory in Politics; lived with half his mind in the other world; read only divinity; wore a large wig, and full black; fasted every sacrament day, had daily prayers, and endured a scolding wife with patience. He was a good classic; and his memory is still respectfully remembered in his neighbourhood. He married two wives, one of whom was a sister of Admiral Caldwell, a name well known in the Navy.

## WILLIAM, Rector of Acton Scott, &amp;c.

William, Incumbent = Frances, dr. Edward, bapt. = dr. of Dewell. Thomas, = Marg. dr. of...  
 of Cold Weston, co. of Baldwin, 30. Dec. 1690, bapt. Aug. Amies; mar. at  
 Sal. S. P. of Diddlebury. Vicar of Stiche- 29. 1693, of Diddlebury, Jan.  
 ley and Daw- 23. 1724.

Acton Bur-  
 nell, co. Sal.  
 Gent.

John, Vicar of Childerditch,  
 co. Essex. bur. there, unmarried. Others.  
 S. P.

Thomas, of Diddlebury, William, of London, = Hester, dr. of Tho. Lashbrooke of Southwark,  
 bapt. Oct. 23. 1726. bapt. Apr. 1734. mar. at Hendon in Middlesex, July 30. 1766, liv-  
 Issue living. ob. 1775. ing at Walford, co. Hereford, 1821, widow of  
 James Holmes, Adjutant W. Essex Militia. Mrs.  
 Dodson her gr. grandmother was cousin to Tho.

Thomas Dudley, = Mary Howell, mar. at  
 only son. | Horsley, Gloucestershire.

John, Medical Yate, Stud- Sophia, Hesther Elizab. Tho. Dudley, Will. Mich. Mary Elizabeth.  
 Student, at dent, of bapt. at Horsley. bapt. at Malbon, bapt. Ann, Mary  
 Edinburgh, Clare Hall, Horsley. Walford, co. at Walford. bapt. Louisa.  
 bapt. at Cambridge, Hereford. at Wal- Maria,  
 Horsley. bapt. at Horsley. ford. all bur.  
 at Horsley.

Dead.

An unusual circumstance attached to this pedigree is, that all the parties of the name are descended from one stem only : and that men of fortune, belonging to it, avowed this fact, contrary to the practice of the rest of mankind, who would fain persuade every body, that they have no poor relations, a monstrous absurdity.\* The author can particularize lineal descendants of our most ancient existing Dukes, who are, or were, Mechanics and Day-labourers, and bearing the family names. In one regiment are, or were, two *Honourables*, Privates. One half of the House of Peers is descended from mothers who were City-fortunes, children of obscure persons; and most fortunate it is for them, that they have this descent. It is now philosophically ascertained, that such is the havock of the constitution, made by continued luxurious living, that Insanity, Fatuity, Impotency, or Sterility, would ensue in high life, were there not occasional renovations from mothers of more temperate and inferior classes.† Godwin in his *Population* (p. 98.) quotes Blackstone on Consanguinity, as saying,

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\* “A Gentleman of fortune a very intelligent man of the name of Fosbrook, a perfect stranger, called upon me about thirty years ago, apologizing for the liberty, as he termed it, merely to know if I were a relation, for he never found one of the name, but were so. After half an hour’s conversation, we soon were relations.” Lett. of T. Fosbrook, Esq. of the Shardlow Line.

† See a note in the “Gentleman” a Poem.

“ So many different bloods is a man said to contain in his veins, as he has lineal ancestors,” and, according to the rules of our Celtic and later Forefathers, it is besides further noticed, that Stature is essential to dignity. All these principles are consulted in the breed of Horses; and as Marriage for Money is a mere affair of convenience, it has nothing to do with the laws of nature; and, without cautious considerations, founded upon health and size, the most illustrious line might terminate in Pigmies, Fools, and Lunatics. These are not only jocose, but serious medical truths; and, in the world of nature, “ Family, as Johnson says, is not *merely* Hereditary Wealth;” but, judiciously considered, involves also, good person, good health, and intellectual powers. It is manifest, that all these ought to be comprised in a great man, to make him complete.

The incidents in the Life of a reading Man are few. I was educated under the Rev. Mr. Milward, of Billericay in Essex, and at Petersfield in Hampshire, until I was nine years old. I was then transferred to St. Paul’s School, London, from whence I removed to Pembroke College, Oxford: the High Master of St. Paul’s (Dr. Roberts) having offered me a Teasdale Scholarship in that amiable and friendly Society. It had been suggested, and in some degree acted upon, that I should become a Special Pleader,

but it was my father's dying wish, that I should be placed in the Church, because it was a family custom; although a profession, which extinguishes all power of rising in the world by personal means. I took the degrees of B. and M. A. and Holy Orders, in the course usual; and, in 1796, published the "Economy of Monastic Life" a poem in Spenserian Measure and style, written upon Darwin's doctrine, of using only precise ideas of picturesque effect, chiefly founded upon the sense of Vision. The Reviews were favourable; and, in 1799, I was elected F. A. S. I then devoted myself to Archæology, (including the Saxon language) and studied eight, or more hours, every day. According to a rule, which I have uniformly observed, of following only the best patterns in every science, I determined to publish only records, manuscripts, or other matters, new to the public. Upon this plan, I compiled my British Monachism from the rich stores of the British Museum and the Bodleian Library. Messrs. Nichols purchased the Copy-right, and the work appeared in 1802, in two volumes octavo. All the Reviews were flattering, without a single exception. I was at the same time, warmly solicited to undertake an Original History of the County of Gloucester. The first thing known of the kind, was a Manuscript Copy of the Inquisitions post Mortem, complete, down to the reign of Richard III. copied for the use

of Henry Lord Stafford; and the providential coincidence of thus being indebted for the main support of my book to that family, was an exquisite gratification. My labour being then importantly eased, I was enabled sooner to perfect my collections from the public offices and libraries; the subscription was warmly encouraged by the Nobility and Gentry, and an opposition was vainly attempted. The publication of this work introduced me to a young man of good family and considerable estate, who offered me a living in his gift, worth £.500 a year. Through heedlessness of expence, he became involved, and I voluntarily permitted him to dispose of the living, that he might not curtail his estates. He proposed to present me with a £1000 instead; but bad company and misfortunes both prevented that, and the continuance of the connexion. About the same time, I declined an annuity of £.200 a year from a female friend of fashion, because I was fearful that it might involve me, as an author, in publications not compatible with my clerical profession. Of both these acts of self-denial, the relinquishment of the living and annuity, which I might have honourably secured by management, to the eventual service of the parties, as well as myself, I have had ample time to repent. Upon the conclusion of the County History, I was engaged by an eminent Bookseller upon terms of six guineas per sheet, and an Encyclopædia of Antiquities at two hundred and fifty pounds, with

promises of other profitable engagements. In 1810 he failed ; and I determined to relinquish my situation in a very refined and opulent neighbourhood, for the execution, in rural retirement of humble plans, rendered necessary for the interests of an increasing family ; and I accordingly removed to Walford in Herefordshire. Soon afterwards I had the honour of illustrating the unpublished Statues in Mr. Hope's Collection ; and was offered a Chaplaincy in the Forces, but was obliged to decline it, because I must have gone abroad, and left my children uneducated. In 1814 I published and stereotyped an Abridgment of Whitby's Commentary on the New Testament, for which I received the unsolicited praise of Dr. Napleton, Chancellor of Hereford and other Dignitaries. In 1815 the British Monachism having risen to double the sale price, a splendid edition was published in quarto, and the work was respectfully quoted by Sir Walter Scott, in his novel of the Monastery, and favourably noticed in the Quarterly Review. In 1819 I finished the History of the City of Gloucester, another handsome quarto, and have now in the press, " Extracts of Smith's Lives of the Berkeleys," which will complete my fifth quarto, and attest my obligations to a kind public, and some excellent friends of distinction.

THE  
**Vicinity.**

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**THE** Places will be expressed alphabetically, for easier reference; and are those, not situate within the line of the Wye Tour, from Ross to Chepstow.

*Acornbury.* A large Roman Camp, according to Gough. It is only parted by a valley from *Dyndor Hill*, (or *Oyster Hill*, from Ostorius.) These camps were undoubtedly connected with the campaigns of Caractacus, apparently after a retreat of the latter, and occupied for security against surprize. Acornbury was formerly a forest, and King John gave it to Margery, wife of Walter de Lacy, for the foundation of a Nunnery of the Augustinian Order.\*

*Aston-Ingham.* Rev. Charles Whatley, *Rectory*.  
Capt. Nugent.

*Brampton Abbots.* Rev. Robert Strong, *Rectory*.  
Spencer Compton, Esq. *Netherton Lodge*.

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\* Tanner.



*Bridstow.* Rev. Love Robertson, *Vicarage House*, a handsome tasteful fabric. *Moraston.* Whaley Armitage, Esq. the Steward's House, of the estates of Guy's Hospital. *Moorwood Cottage.* E. Bevan, M. D. *Wilton Castle.* Guy Hill, Esq. *Wilton.* Capt. Loo. C. Biss, Esq. Mrs. Platt. C. Prosser, Esq.

*Brockhampton.* This place had a deep concern in the campaigns of Caractacus. Upon Caplar Hill, (from Ostorius Scapula) is a camp called Woldbury, doubly trenched, nearly half a mile, long and narrow. Between Brockhampton and Fownhope lies another camp, square and nameless.†

There are also other camps near, as the Geer Cops, the Warrelocks, &c. Caplar Hill is doubly trenched, a thing unusual with the Romans, unless they were pressed, and it was also a common stratagem with those warriors, in order to make the enemy fight in a bad position, to pitch a camp about a mile off, with a river between, and so under pretence of retreat, to allure them across it.‡ Caractacus was seemingly making for the fords by way of Cra-

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† Gough.

‡ Cæs. Bell. Gall, L. vi. c. 7.

dock, and engaged by Ostorius, who was repulsed, and obliged to entrench himself strongly upon Caplar.

*Caple. (How)* Two fine views from the Church and Turnpike road. Principal landed proprietor Mrs. Stackhouse of Bath. *Rectory.* Rev. H. A. Stillingfleet.

*Caple. (Kings)* Edmund Jones, Esq. of Poulson. Of the Tump before.|| Mr. Jones of Poulson thinks, that it may have been used as a Beacon to give notice of any Welch Invasion. The parish is noted by Phillips for its Cyder. Some Churches are said to have been built long and narrow in imitation of Noah's Ark; and this is very like one of them. Parish Chests are very ancient,† and here is one very curious, hewn out of solid wood.

John Cooke, Esq. Mrs. Roberts.

*Eaton Tregoes.* William Clifford, Esq. of *Per-rystone.* Rev. John Jones of *Foy.*

*Fawley.* William Elliot, Esq.

*Fownhope.* J. S. Lechmere, Esq. of the *Nash.*

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|| p. 67.

† Ducange v. *Surratura*—Scrip. p. Bed. 455. 467.

Rev. J. W. Phillips of the *Vicarage*. Nathaniel Purchas, Esq. of the *Brewery*. See *Brockhampton*.

*Glewstone*. Charles Ballinger, Esq.

*Harewood*. Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, Bart. of Harewood House—Country rich and woody.

*Hentland*. Richard Jones, Esq. of *Kynaston*.

*Hope-Mansell*. John Herbert, Esq. A very picturesque village.

*Ingeston*. In Nicholson's *Cambrian Guide* is the following passage: "Inclosed by a reach of the river below Fawley, is *Ingeston-house*, an old and spacious brick mansion, long the residence of the Hoskyns family. On the banks of the Wye, nearly opposite to Ingeston, at a place called *Hole-in-the-wall*, are the remains of an ancient building, the site is now partly occupied by many cottages. About one mile down on the Wye, is another of the ancient *Camps*, which form a chain upon the eminences in this part of the country. It occupies the summit of Eaton Hill. The entrenchments are very perfect and deep. A farm house at Eaton displays vestiges of an ancient mansion. The ground about it is called the *Park of Eaton*. Col. 1364."

*Kentchurch*. John Lucy Scudamore, Esq.

**Linton.** Rev. Arthur Matthews, *Vicar*, Rev. —Hassall, *Vicarage House*.—Part of this Church seems to be pure Anglo-Saxon, and is curious.  
**Burton.** P. Matthews, Esq. *Linton Point*. Thomas Sargeant, Gent.

**Llandinabo.** Capt. Woodward of *Broomyclose*. Rev. John Hoskins of *New Grove*.

**Llanwarne.** Abraham Whittaker, Esq. of *Lyson*. Rev. Ralph Lockey, *Rectory*.

**Llangarren.** Rev. John Jones, of *Langston*.

**Mordiford.** James Hereford, Esq. of *Suftan Court*. J. Lane, Esq. of *Hampton Bishop*. Rev. Charles John Bird, of the *Rectory*.

**Much Birch.** Kedgwin Hoskins, Esq. of *Strickstenning*. Rev. John Hall, *Wallace Cottage*.

**Much Dewchurch.** J. Phillipps, Esq. of *Bryngwin*. Tho. H. Symons, Esq. of the *Meend*.

**Much Marcle.** James Kyrle Money, Esq. *Homhouse*. Edward Wallwyn, Esq. *Helens*. Rev. Kyrle Ernley Money, *Vicarage*. A fine monument of Sir John Kyrle and Lady, 1628. Another very ancient, but quite perfect, of Lord Mortimer.

**Pencoyd.** Walter Palmer, Esq. P. Palmer, Esq. *Old Hall*.

*Putley.* Mrs. Jane Stock.

*Sellack and Foy.* Cradock is a fine old mansion built by one of the Scudamores about the reign of Elizabeth—The east window of the Church is finely decorated with stained glass, the gift of the Pengethly family, bearing the date of 1630—A fine old British Highway runs down to the Church towards the ford. *Pengethly* is the handsome seat of the Rev. T. P. Symonds. Rev. T. James, of *Sellack*.

*Upton Bishop.* Josiah Newman, Esq. *Pearhill*.  
Rev. Geo. H. L. Gretton of the *Vicarage*.

*Weston-Under-Penyard.* The Roman Camp is presumed to have been the spot, where is now the Round Tree field. The Castle of Penyard belonged to the Talbots 10. Ric. ii. anno. 1386,¶ and the remains, a few walls, have been recently pulled down by the present proprietor, John Partridge, Esq. for materials of a seat, which he is proposing to build at Weston. He also possesses a fine estate here, including the magnificent wood. *Bollatree* is the handsome mansion of William Palmer, Esq. The family of Swain, has been long known here, (for more than a century,) and possesses handsome estate

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¶ Gough's Camden ii. 449. Ed. 1786

in the vicinity. The *Rectory* is an excellent house. Rev. R. Wallond, Treasurer of Hereford Cathedral, &c. Rector. Thomas Winnall, William Rudge, Esquires, and Charles Burmester, Barrister at Law, reside here.

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The Town of Ross being a Central Communication between Gloucester, Monmouth, Hereford, and Ledbury, is very useful, as a source of general supply, for the adjacent Neighbourhood, and as such, there are Shops and Inns, not inferior to those of Cities. The following Catalogue will both show the state of Business, and serve for

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